

ROMANCES of the WEST

a BIG
52
PAGE
magazine

NOV. 10¢

at
LOVERS
magazine

HOWARD DUFF
and
YVONNE DE CARLO
co-starring in
"CALAMITY JANE and
SAM BASS"



The COWPOKE
who LASSOED
my HEART!

DAISY AIR RIFLE

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Accurate, hard-hitting low in price. Every one who has owned

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Shoots BB's, Darts, Pellets

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See under water! Water tight, rubber, unbreakable lenses. Adjustable Set

REPEATING BB SLINGSHOT 98c

150 SHOT. Magazine load slingshot. Designed for accuracy and power. Long distance shooting, hard hitting. Fire 50 shots per minute. More powerful than rubber band slingshots. Your own expressions and facial movements are reflected in them. Natural looking. Originally made for theatrical work. Soft, pliable latex. Ridiculously human. Covers entire head down to collar. Beautiful. Blonde Girl, Monkey, Comic Man, \$2.95. Santa Claus \$3.95

SPEED SWIM GLOVES GO FAST!

Makes even beginner swim faster than an expert! Used by swim stars for faster, easier swimming. Web finger construction. Water like knife, stronger. Bigger. SET \$1.98

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Dummy Motor Gives Bike Looks and Noise of Motorcycle. Faster you go, louder the roar. Fits any bicycle. Looks good; use with or without noisemaker. Price. . . . 50c. Extra Noisemaker Tab. Set. . . . 10c

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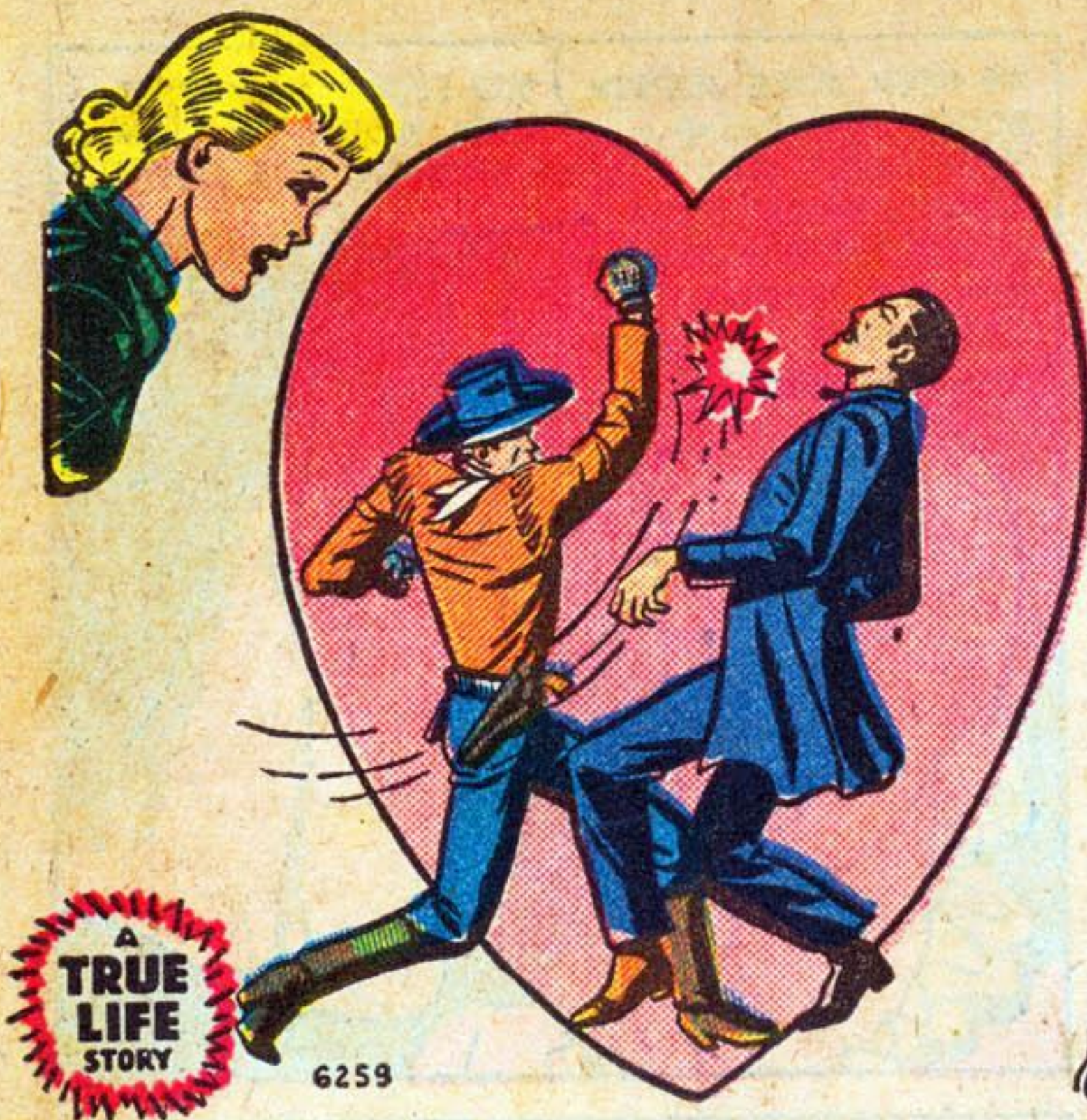
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I HAD ONLY ONE HOPE...TIM DOLAN! BUT THEN MY HEART REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE IT...FOR TIM DOLAN, THE MAN I HAD LOVED, WAS AS BAD AS THE OTHERS!

WHEN LOVE CAME TO DEADWOOD!



DEADWOOD IS A DESOLATE LITTLE PLACE WITHOUT MUCH OF ANYTHING EXCEPT A FEW STORES AND A COUPLE OF WOODEN FRAME HOUSES! BUT IT'S MY HOME... HERE I WAS BORN AND HERE I TEACH MY CLASSES... I, SALLY RILEY...



I LOVED MY LITTLE HOME TOWN, LOVED IT FOR WHAT IT WAS AND COULD BE! BUT ONCE IT HAD BECOME A PLACE OF LAWLESSNESS AND CRIME, SPEARHEADED BY SMILEY BAXTER, THE GAMBLER WHO HAD DEADWOOD UNDER HIS THUMB!



HE HAD GOTTEN HIS FINGER INTO EVERY PIE! EVEN THE SCHOOL BOARD WAS DOMINATED BY HIM...



NOW THEN, MISS SALLY, WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OUR PRETTY SCHOOLMARM?

I CAME HERE TO DISCUSS THE SCHOOL-- BUT NOT WITH A GAMBLER!

SMILEY WAS A SLICK CHARACTER AND NOT WITHOUT CHARM... THE DEADLY CHARM OF A RATTLESNAKE!

NOW, NOW! IT'S NO USE GETTING FURROWS ON THAT IVORY-LIKE BROW OVER PETTY DETAILS! WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DISCUSS WITH US?

WITH *US*? WITH *YOU*, YOU MEAN, SMILEY BAXTER!! EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU RUN THE SCHOOL BOARD AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE IN DEADWOOD!





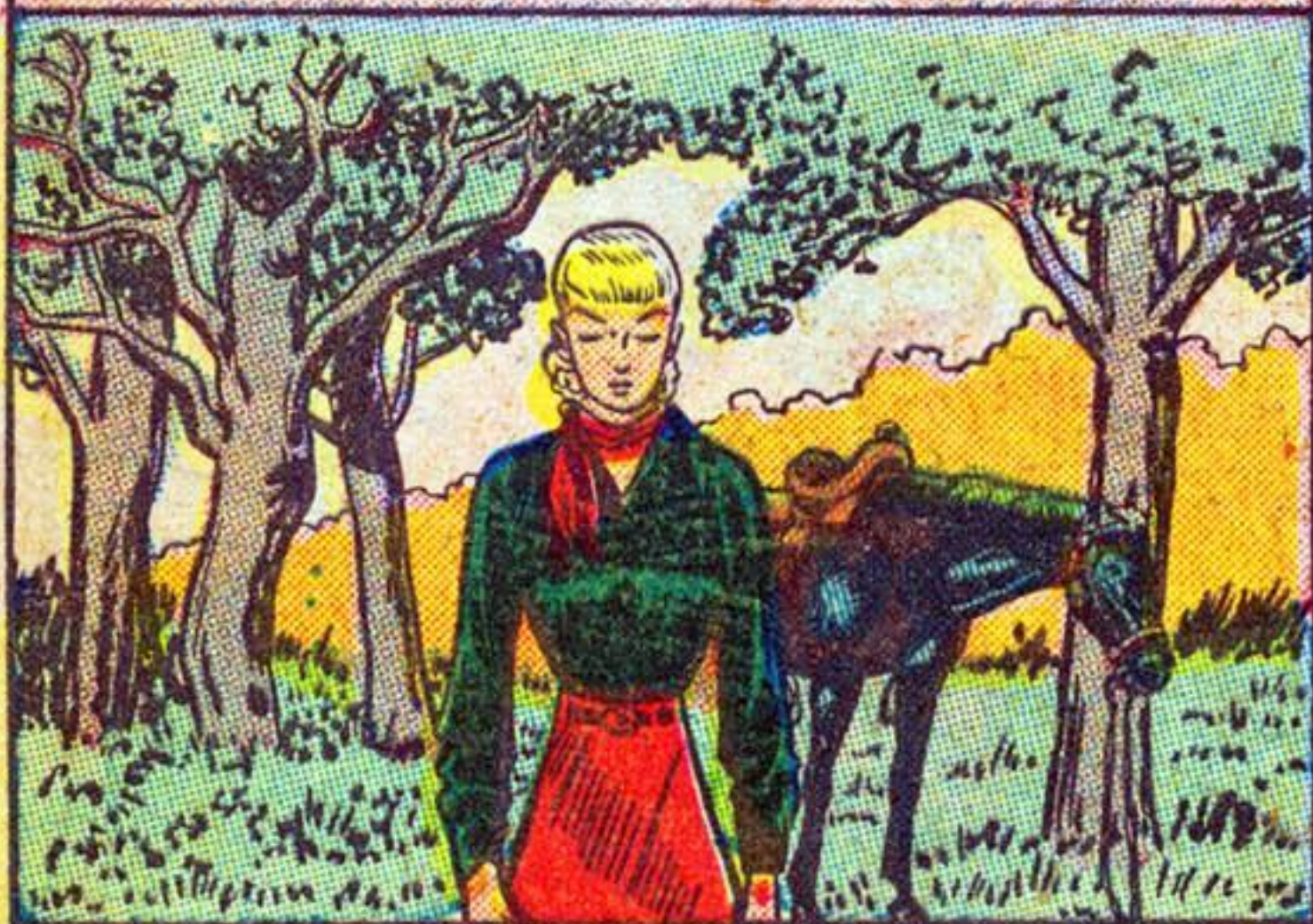
HERE WAS ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT AND I GAVE IT TO HIM—RIGHT ACROSS HIS FACE—AS HARD AS I COULD!



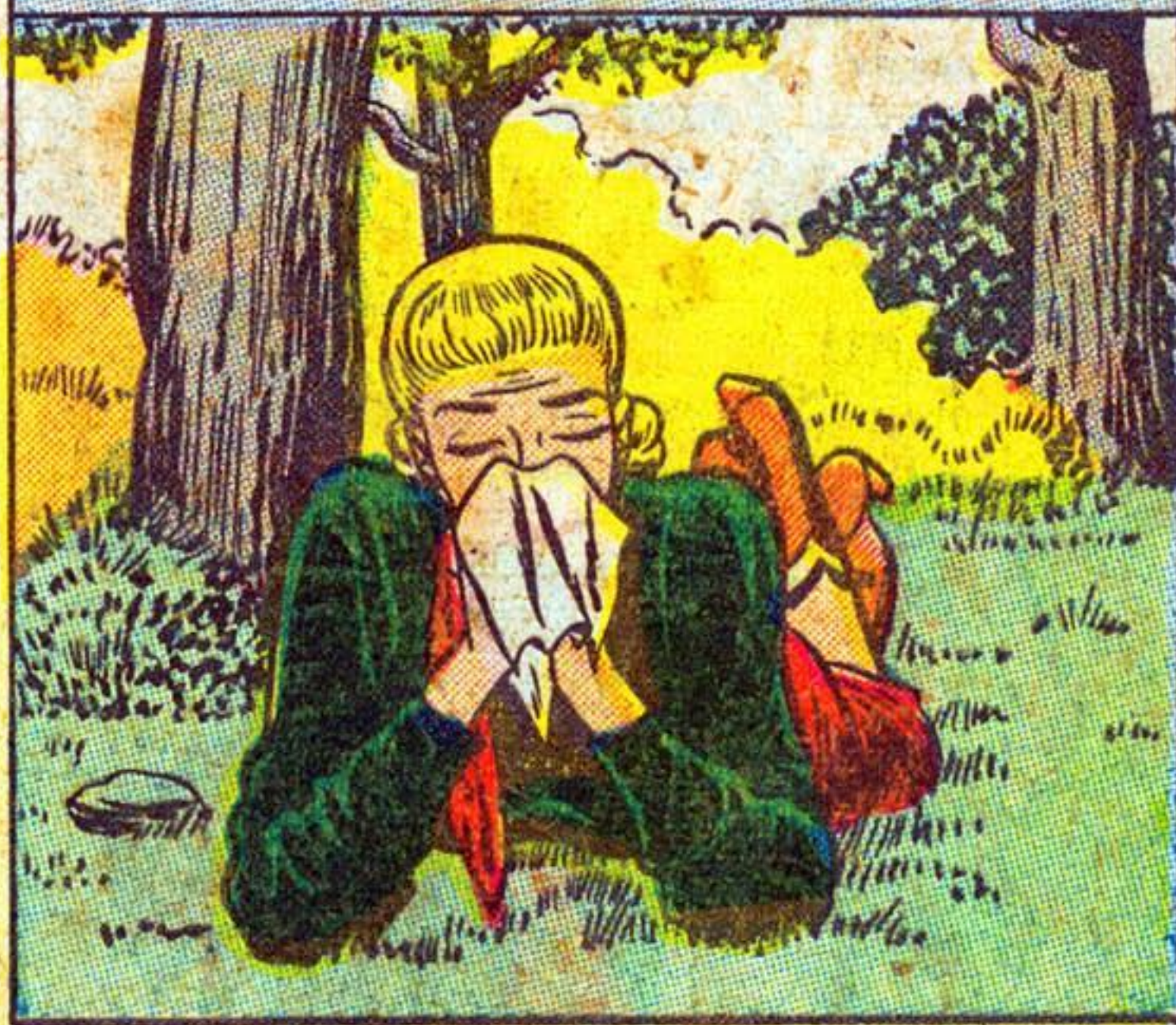
WHEN I COULD STAND IT NO LONGER AND I RUSHED OUT, TEARS BLINDING ME! LOUD, SARCASTIC LAUGHS FOLLOWED ME!



WHenever I was troubled there was always one place where I could find peace! This was a grove in the hills outside of Deadwood, a place which was my favorite spot to dream as a little girl! This was where I had decided to devote my life to improving Deadwood and now, in my trouble, I went there, crying over my broken dreams and hopes!



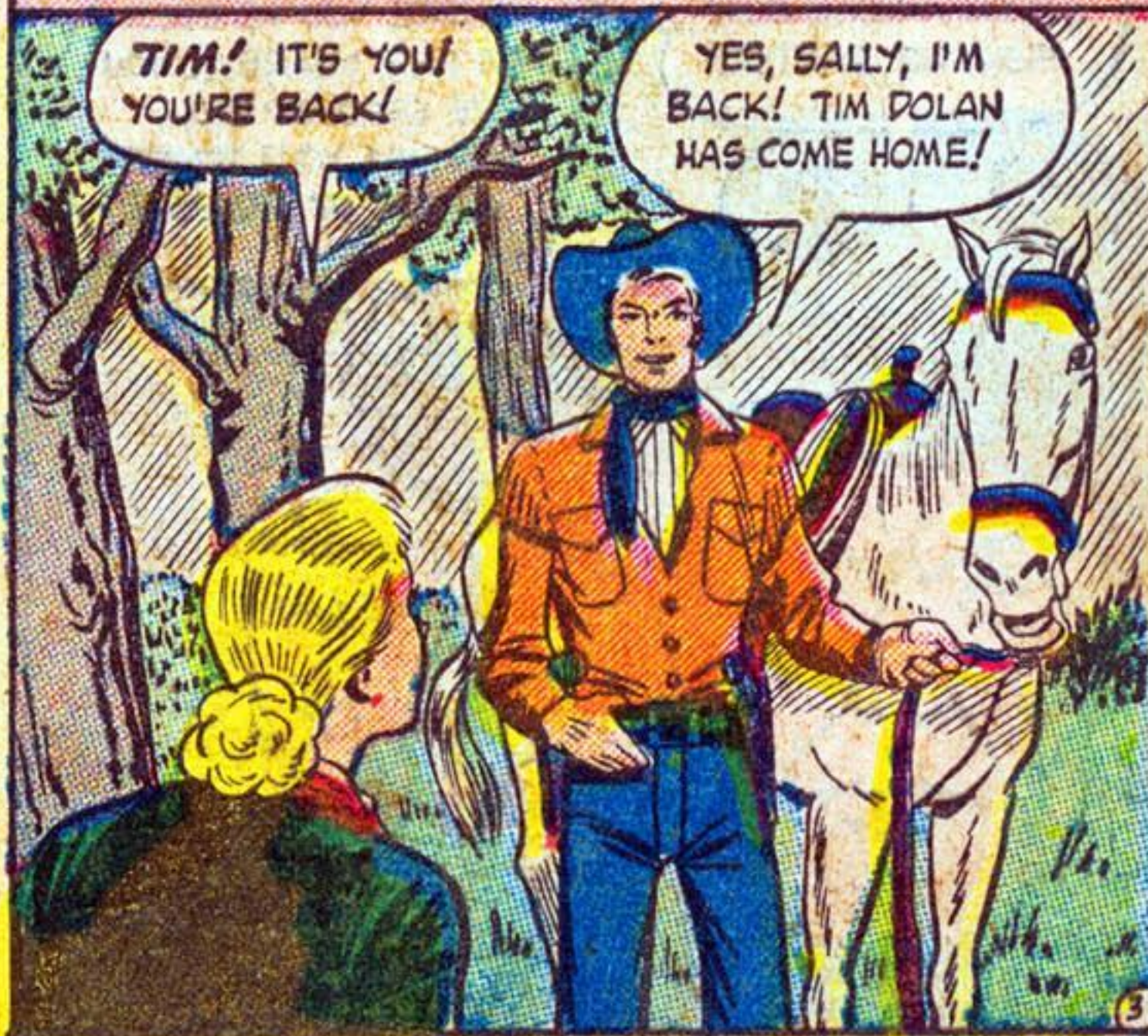
I THREW MYSELF ON THE COMFORTING GRASS, MY HEART BROKEN LIKE MY DREAMS, AND I COULDN'T HALT THE TEARS THAT RUSHED OUT!



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CRIED, BUT AFTER A WHILE I STOPPED! THEN I HAD TIME TO THINK, BUT...



THAT VOICE! IT HAD BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAD HEARD IT! AND YET... IT COULD ONLY BELONG TO ONE PERSON... TO...

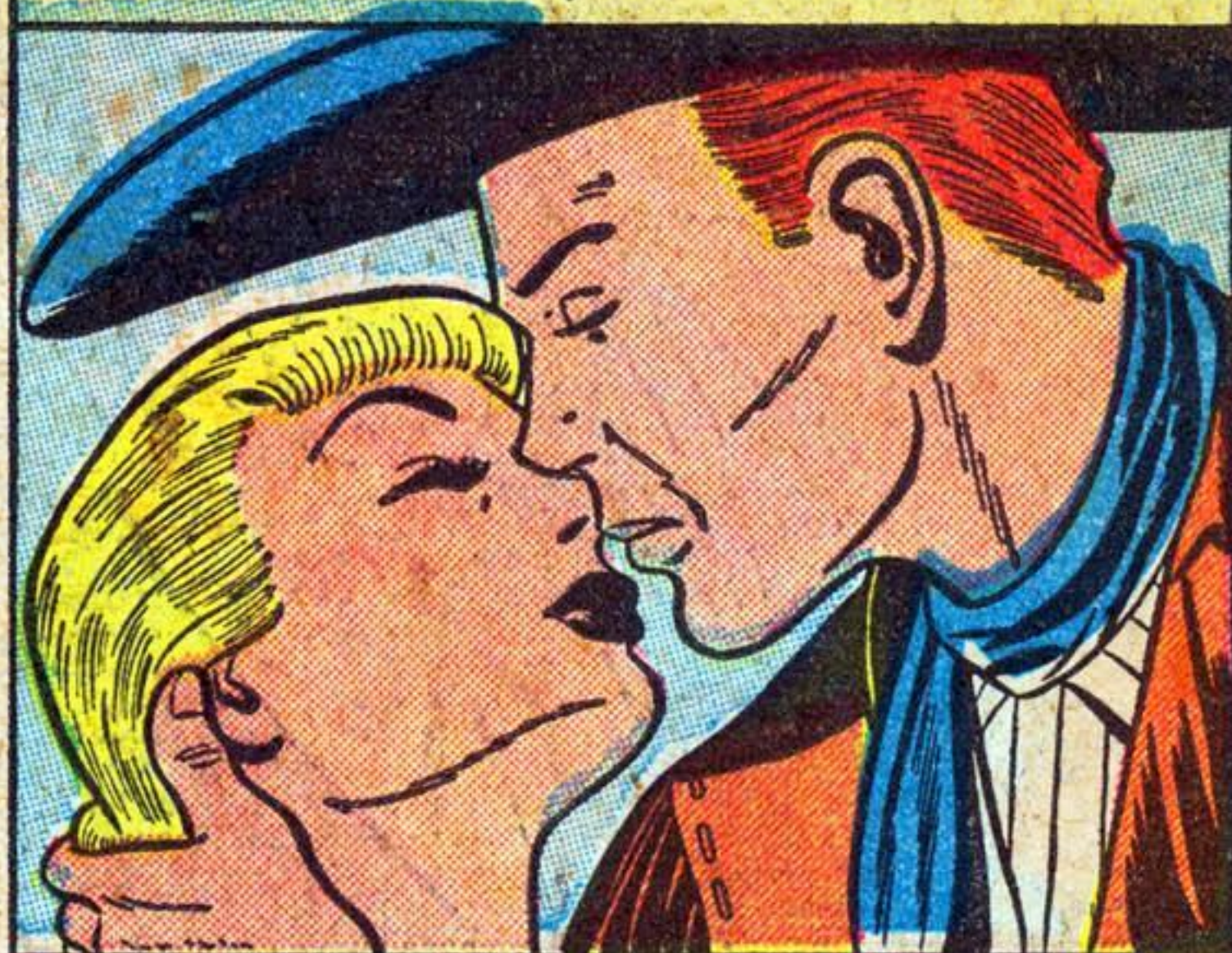


TIM DOLAN! TIM DOLAN! THE REMEMBRANCE OF HIM RANG IN MY HEART LIKE A THOUSAND BELLS! IN A SECOND I WAS IN HIS ARMS AND HE WAS HOLDING ME SO CLOSE I BARELY COULD ASK...

FIVE YEARS, TIM! IT'S BEEN SO LONG! WHY DID YOU GO AWAY— WITHOUT A WORD?

I HAD A JOB TO DO, SALLY! NOW EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT AND I'M HOME! AND YOU, BABY, YOU'RE PRETTIER THAN EVER!

A MOMENT BEFORE I HAD BEEN ALONE IN MY TROUBLES, WITHOUT A FRIEND TO HELP ME! BUT NOW EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT AGAIN! I HAD TIM— HE WOULD FIX EVERYTHING! MY TIM WAS BACK AGAIN! AND HIS KISS, WARM AS THE MORNING SUN, TOLD ME ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!



ON OUR WAY BACK TO TOWN I TOLD HIM ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING, OF HOW SMILEY HAD UNDERMINED THE TOWN, OF HOW EVERYONE WAS AFRAID TO BUCK SMILEY BAXTER!

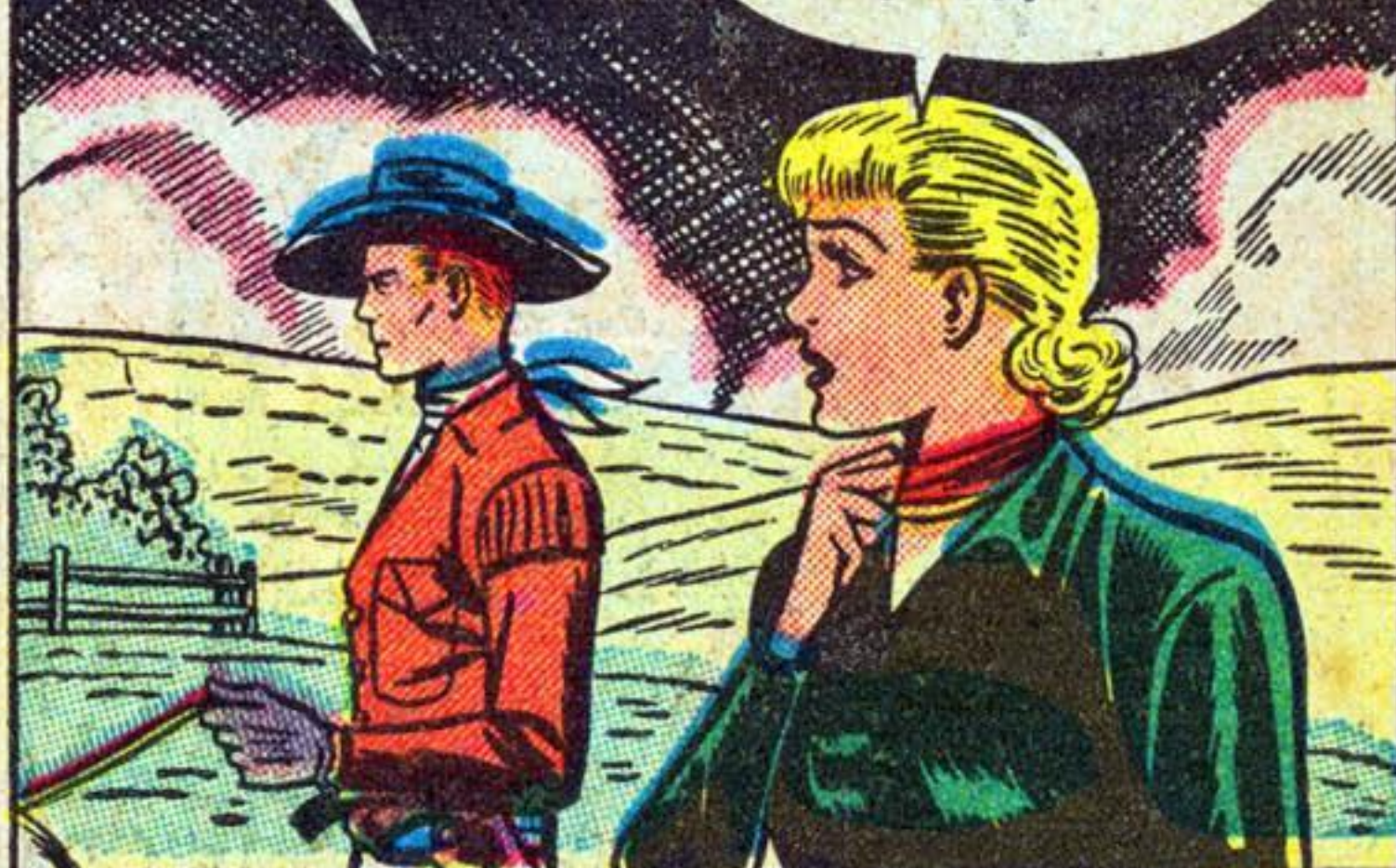
SO SMILEY BAXTER IS STILL RUNNING THINGS, EH?

YES, TIM! AND SOMETHING **MUST** BE DONE... THINGS CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS ANY LONGER! SAY YOU'LL HELP ME, TIM!

WHEN HE SAID SOMETHING THAT WAS UNLIKE THE TIM I HAD KNOWN! AND IT TOOK ME BY COMPLETE SURPRISE!

ME HELP? WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST A BIG WHEEL LIKE BAXTER? IT'S NO USE, SALLY!

WHAT? TIM... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHY... YOU NEVER **USED** TO BE AFRAID OF **ANYTHING**! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

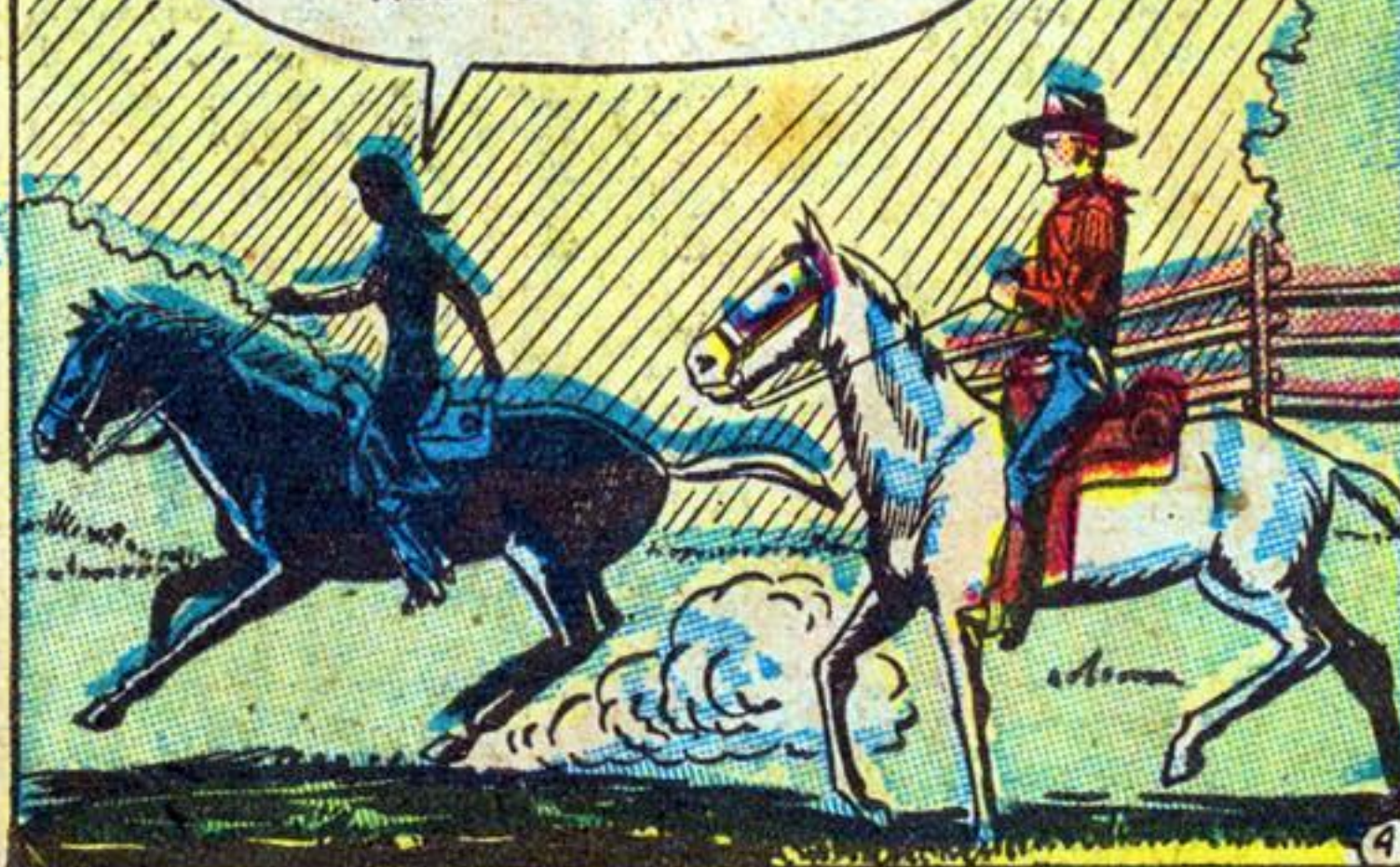


I CAN'T SAY, SALLY, BUT THERE'S NO USE IN ME OR ANYONE ELSE FIGHTING BAXTER!

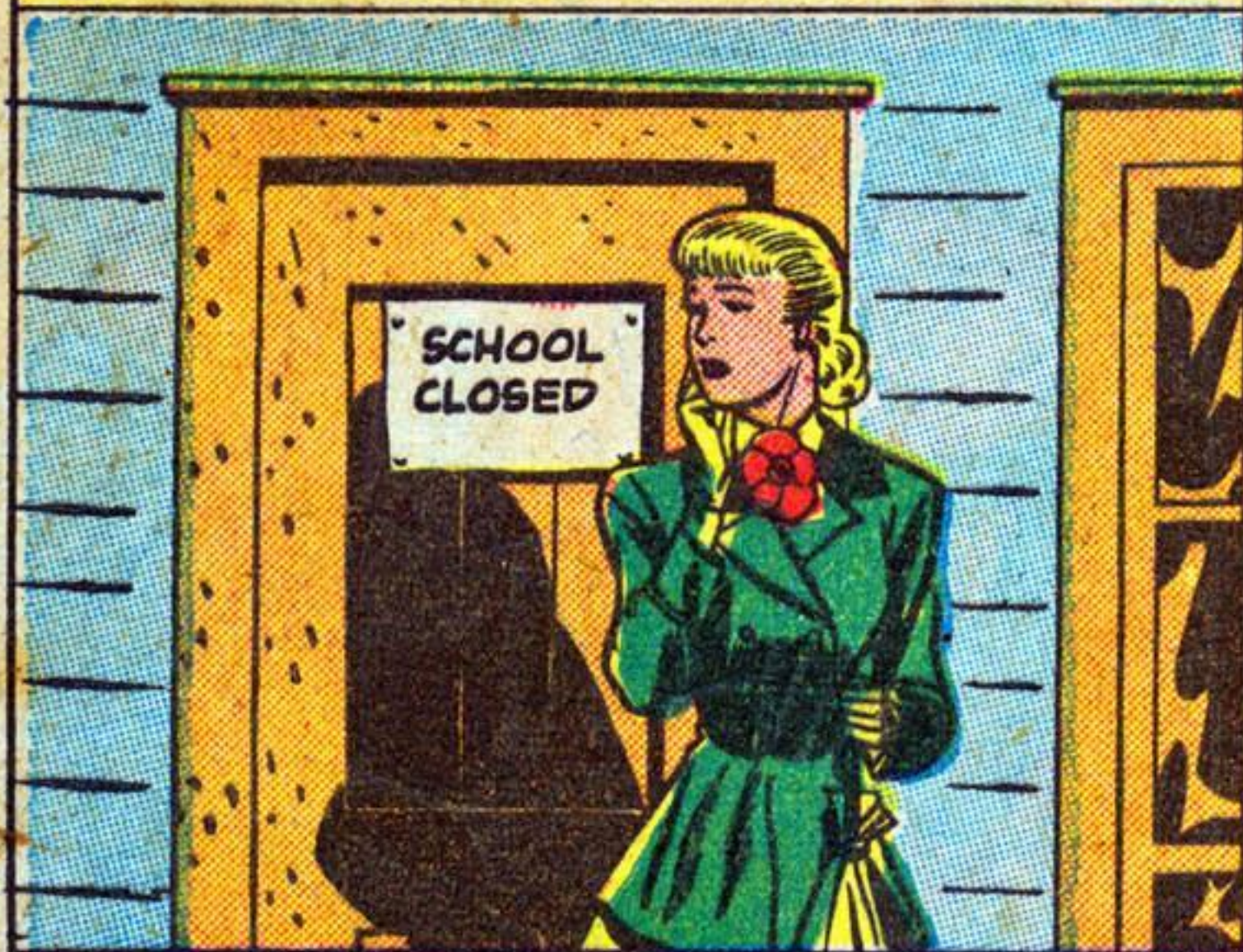
AND I HAD HOPES IN **YOU**! NOW I KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN FOR FIVE YEARS... YOU WERE CROOKED TOO, WEREN'T YOU? **YOU'VE BEEN IN PRISON!**

TIM DIDN'T ANSWER THAT WILD, DESPERATE ACCUSATION AND I KNEW IT WAS TRUE! MY WORLD WAS AS BLACK AS EVER AS MY NEW HOPE WAS DESTROYED!

GET OUT OF MY LIFE, TIM DOLAN... I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN AS LONG AS I LIVE! YOU'RE AS BAD AS THE REST OF THEM!



MY LOSS OF FAITH IN TIM MEANT MORE THAN THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT HELP ME FIGHT BAXTER! YOU SEE, AS YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED, I HAD LOVED TIM ALL MY LIFE AND NOW THAT WAS GONE TOO! HOW DEEP CAN DESPAIR BECOME? HOW DESOLATE CAN A LIFE BE? I KNEW...



I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN! BUT DEADWOOD IS A VERY SMALL TOWN-- I HAD EXPECTED TO RUN INTO HIM! BUT I WASN'T PREPARED FOR WHAT WAS TO COME! I WAS PASSING THE DIAMOND SPUR A FEW DAYS LATER!



I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO OPEN THE SCHOOL AGAIN!

THE DOORS SWUNG OPEN, AND...



HA! HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE, SMILEY!

WAIT'LL YOU HEAR *THIS* ONE, TIM! OH, HOWDY, MISS SALLY!

TIM!

I STILL COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES! TIM DOLAN AND SMILEY BAXTER, ARM-IN-ARM--PALS!



TIM! YOU AND THAT CROOK!

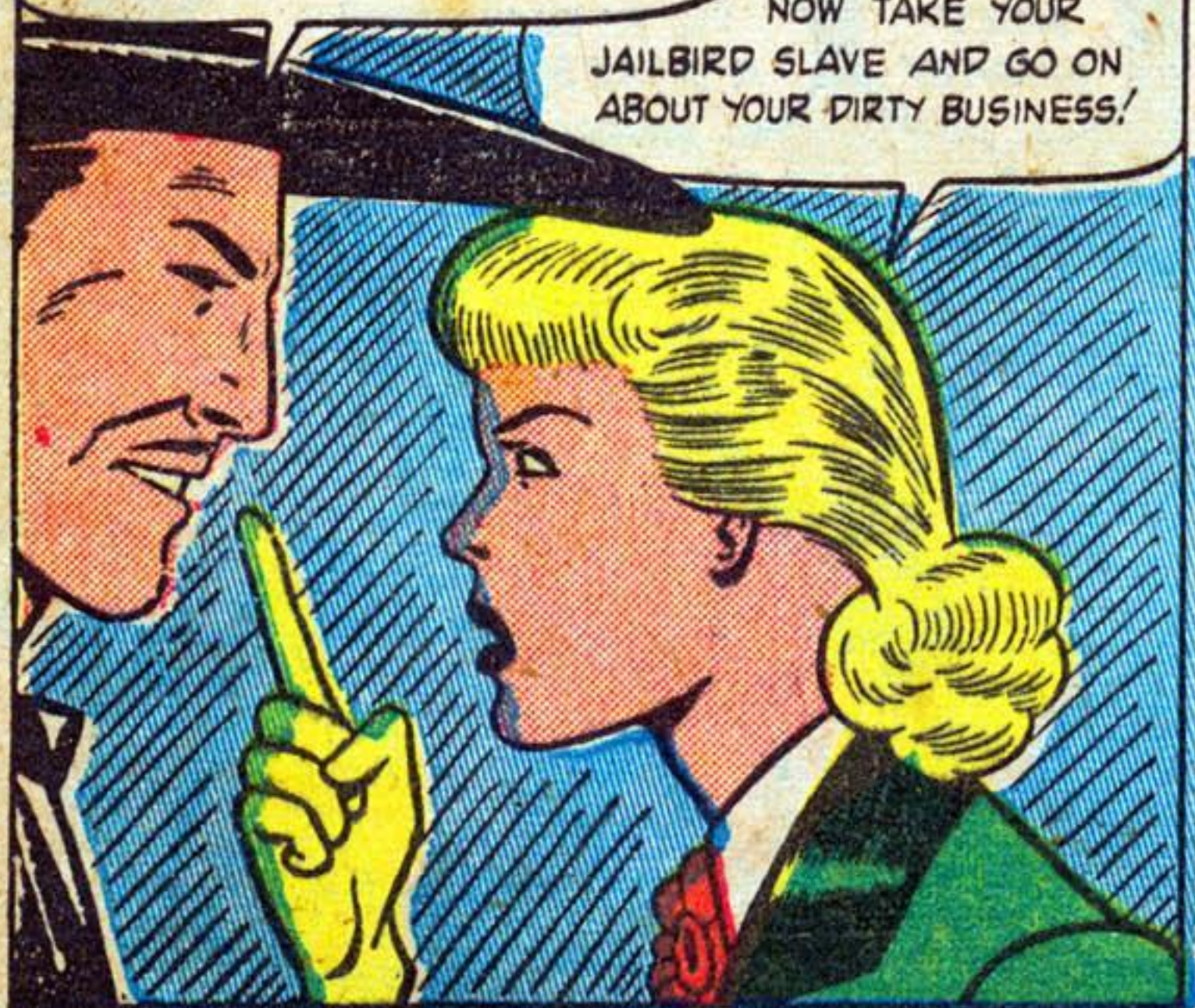
TUT, TUT, SALLY! YOU MUSTN'T SAY THOSE THINGS ABOUT MY *BOSS*!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SEE, MISS SALLY, TIM'S WORKING FOR ME, LIKE EVERY SMART PERSON IN TOWN!

YOU'LL HAVE TO COME AND WORK FOR ME, TOO, MISS SALLY!... OR YOU'LL GO HUNGRY PRETTY SOON!

I'LL *DIE* BEFORE I COME TO *YOU* FOR ANYTHING!

NOW TAKE YOUR JAILBIRD SLAVE AND GO ON ABOUT YOUR DIRTY BUSINESS!



YOU'VE GOT SPUNK! I LIKE A GAL WITH SPUNK... AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER TRIED TO STAND UP AGAINST ME, MISS SALLY! DOGGONED IF I DON'T LOVE THAT IN A GAL! DOGGONED IF I DON'T LOVE *YOU*! MISS SCHOOLMARM, I'M RIGHT BUG-EYED ABOUT YOU!

AND *I* THINK YOU'RE LOWER THAN VERMIN, YOU *AND* YOUR FRIENDS!



THIS SUDDEN INTEREST ON SMILEY'S PART WAS A SURPRISE! BUT MORE OF A SURPRISE WAS TIM STANDING THERE... TAKING IT... NOT SAYING A WORD!

SAY THE WORD, MISS SALLY, AND YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT-- SCHOOLS, BOOKS, DESKS! ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SAY YOU'LL BE MRS. BAXTER!

THAT DOESN'T EVEN DESERVE AN ANSWER! YOU POISON THE VERY GROUND YOU WALK ON! WHY... YOU...



AND THEN TIM DID SPEAK!

C'MON, SMILEY! LET'S NOT WASTE TIME HERE-- WE'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

YEAH! 'BYE, MISS SCHOOLMARM!



THINGS WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR A WEEK... THE SCHOOL WAS CLOSED FOR GOOD! TIM HAD JOINED SMILEY'S GANG OF RUFFIANS! EVERYTHING LOOKED BLACK FOR THE FUTURE OF DEADWOOD'S CHILDREN! THEN A GROUP OF MOTHERS CAME TO SEE ME...

SALLY, IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR THE SCHOOL TO BE CLOSED!

I KNOW IT, CLARA!



WE DON'T WANT OUR KIDS TO GROW UP TO BE LOUYS! WE'RE BRINGING UP A GENERATION OF LOAFERS!

YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, SALLY! OUR MEN DON'T CARE! THEY'RE ALL SCARED OF SMILEY!

I KNOW THAT! THERE ISN'T A THING YOU CAN SAY I DON'T ALREADY KNOW!



BUT THERE IS A CHANCE-- ONE CHANCE-- IF I CAN MAKE THE MEN WAKE UP!

OH! IF YOU ONLY COULD!

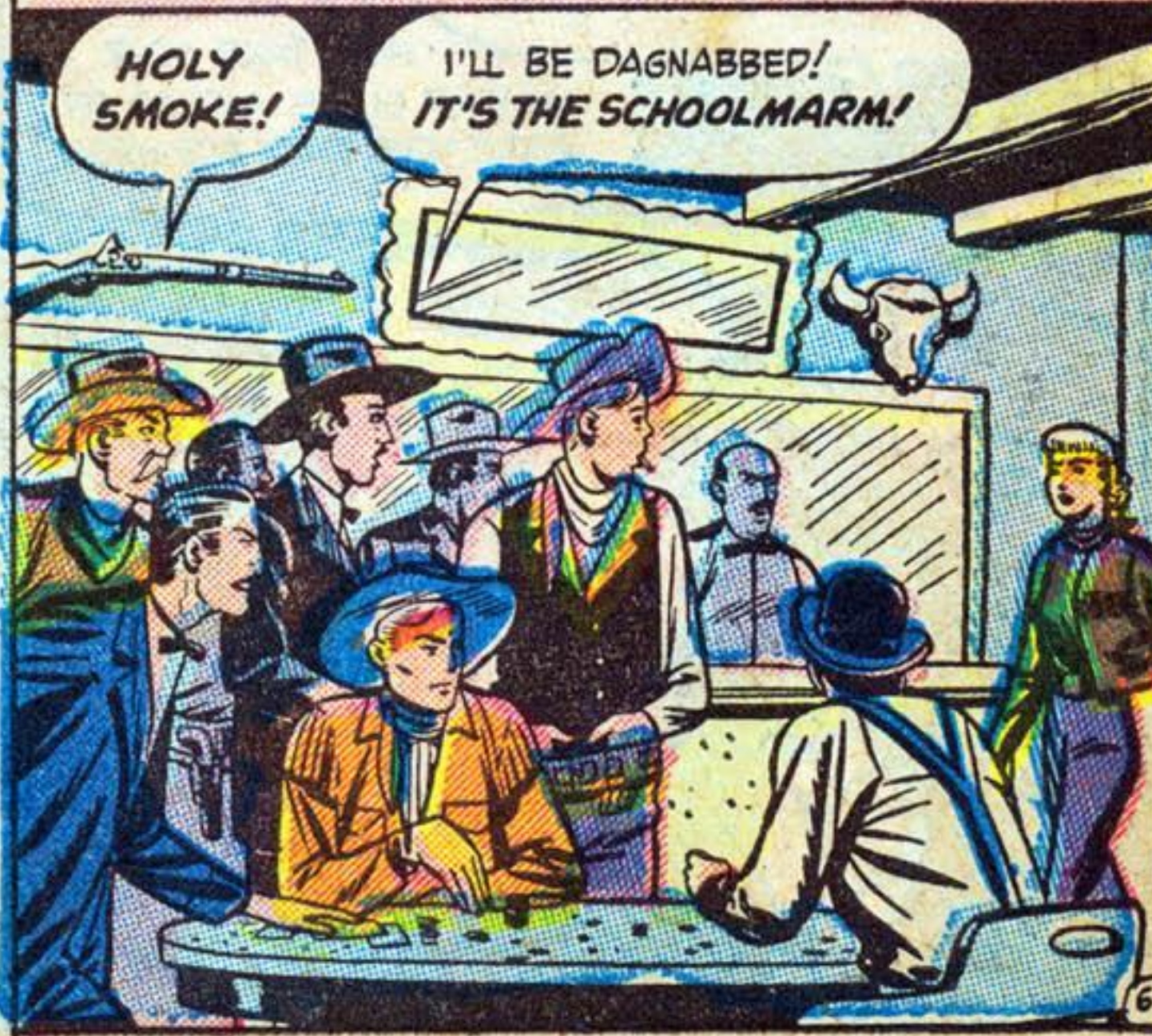
PLEASE, SALLY, YOU'RE THE ONE HOPE WE AND OUR CHILDREN HAVE!

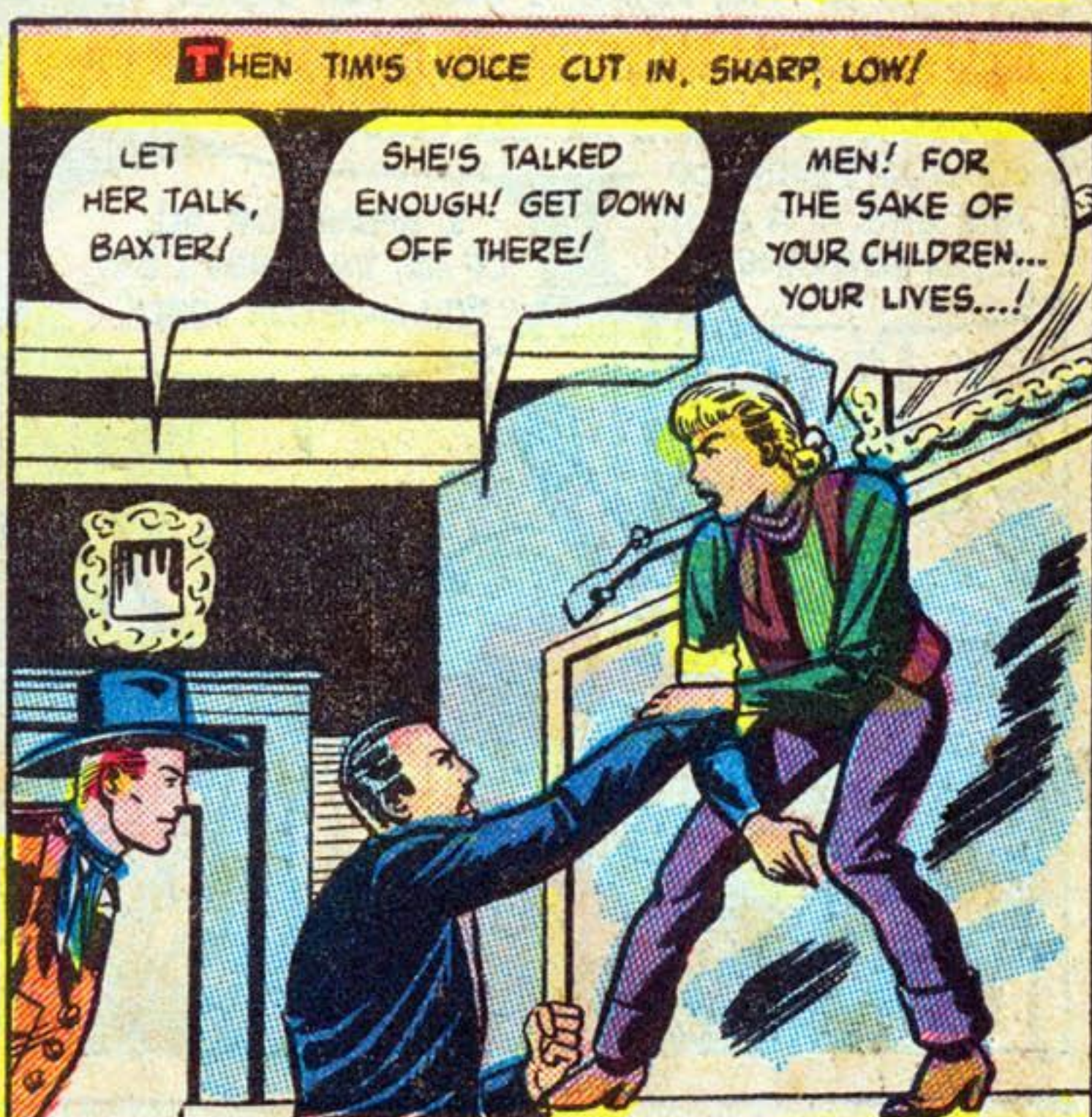
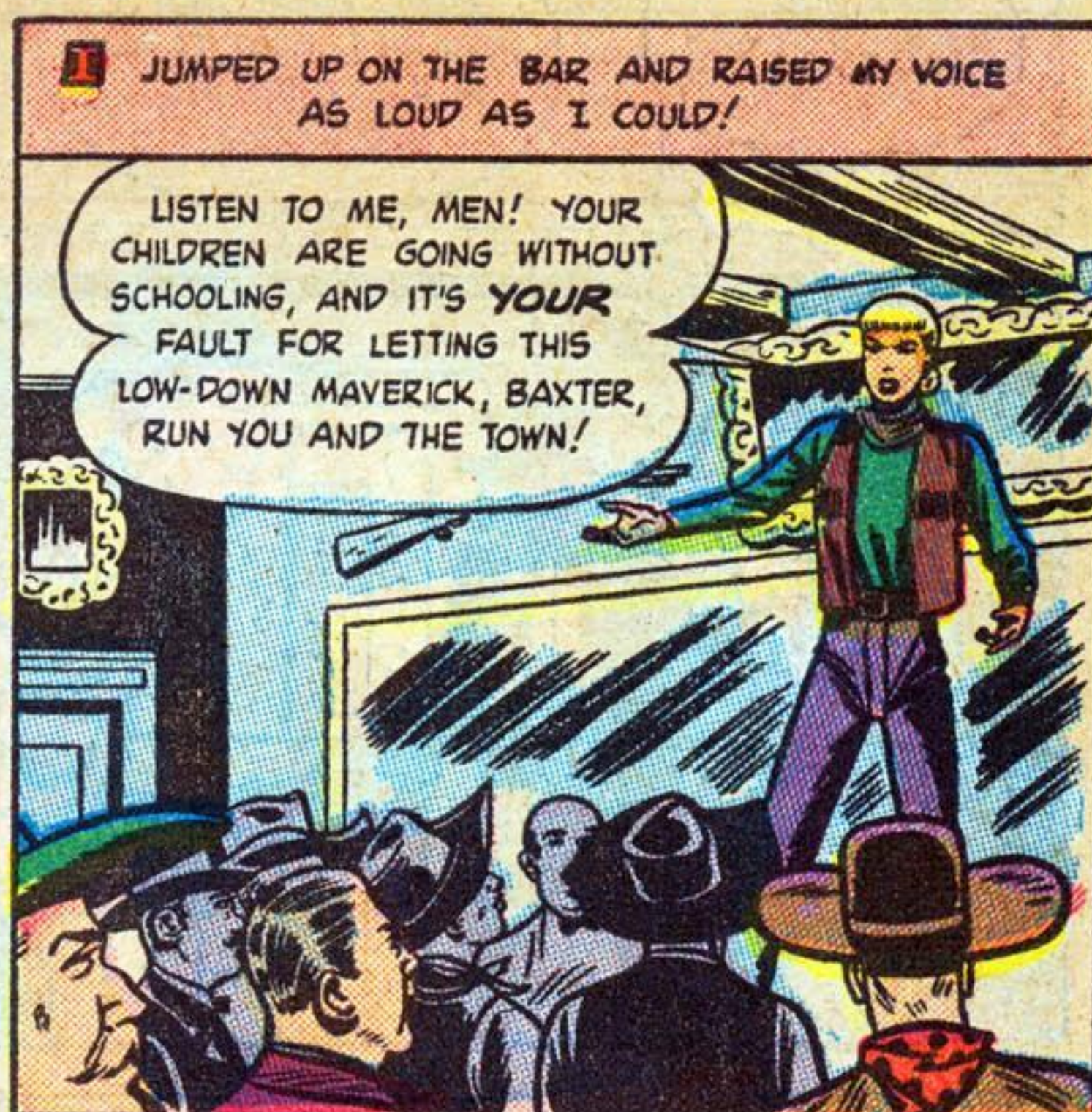


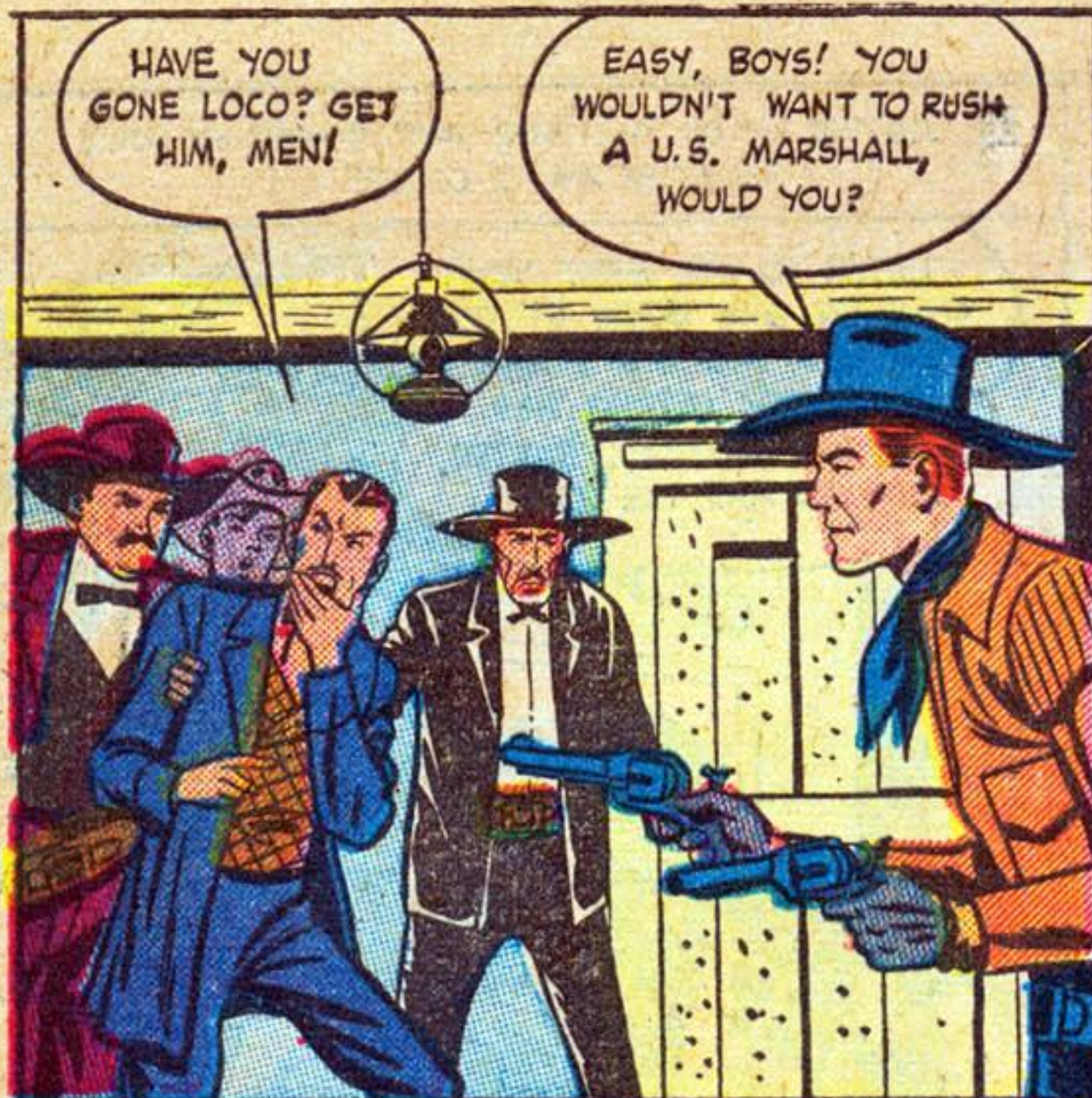
SO THAT NIGHT THE PATRONS OF THE DIAMOND SPUR GOT THE SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!

HOLY SMOKE!

I'LL BE DAGNABBED! IT'S THE SCHOOLMARM!









Dubble Bubble Gum is best
for you and me and all the rest
GET SOME TODAY!

1¢ with Comics, Fortunes, Facts



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A RANCH FOR RAMONA

"**H**ERE'S the deed for your property, Sam," Lawyer Colby told Sam Larson. "Better be careful riding out to the ranch with this paper on you. There's lots of coyotes in these parts who would like to get hold of your land."

"I know that, Bill," Sam Larson answered, "I know it well. Only the other day, Holt Parkinson made me another offer. Much too low, I figured. Only thing I didn't tell Holt is that any price would be too low for that ranch of mine."

Sam rode out unmolested toward his home. When he ar-

rived, he called from outside the ranchhouse to his daughter, Ramona.

"Mona, anyone been around to see me while I was in town?"

Ramona met Sam at the door.

"Yes, Daddy," she answered.

"A Mr. Parkinson. He said he was a friend of yours and wanted to have a look around the land. I let him wander about, and he left just a few minutes back."

"Hm... funny I didn't meet him riding out."

Holt Parkinson, the local banker, repeatedly attempted to make Sam sell out the ranch.

He offered more than the land was worth and told Sam over and over again that he wanted it for a new experiment in ranching. Sam's land was the best around on which to try it.

Sam knew what trick Holt had up his sleeve, but he was too polite to call Holt's bluff. He just kept putting him off and saying that he wouldn't make up his mind about selling until Ramona got married. Then, he went on, it would be up to the young folks to decide if they wanted the ranch or not.

Sam knew that his land was rich in copper, and he suspect-

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ed that Holt knew it, too. But he never let Holt know that he knew about it. Time enough for that when, and if, he decided to sell out.

As for Ramona, Sam never told her about the copper either. That could wait, too, until Ramona had a young fellow, and then they could work the ranch or sell it to Holt if they wished.

But, the price would be high, because with the copper it was worth far more than what Holt had offered for it.

Ramona was a beautiful, dark-haired girl, the image of her dead mother. Elena had been part Spanish and had inherited from her ancestors delicate features and flashing eyes that made her the talk of the territory. Small wonder that Ramona was Sam's pride and joy and

that he wanted her to find the right man.

Tom Nixon had been calling on Ramona for some time. Sam knew Tom's family and didn't like them too well. They were haughty folks, now poor, who had always acted as if they were too good for the people around them. And often the finger of suspicion had been pointed at Tom's father for complicity in various shady deals having to do with railroad land. Old Nixon had made a fortune out of his dealings with the railroads but had lost it all at the gambling tables.

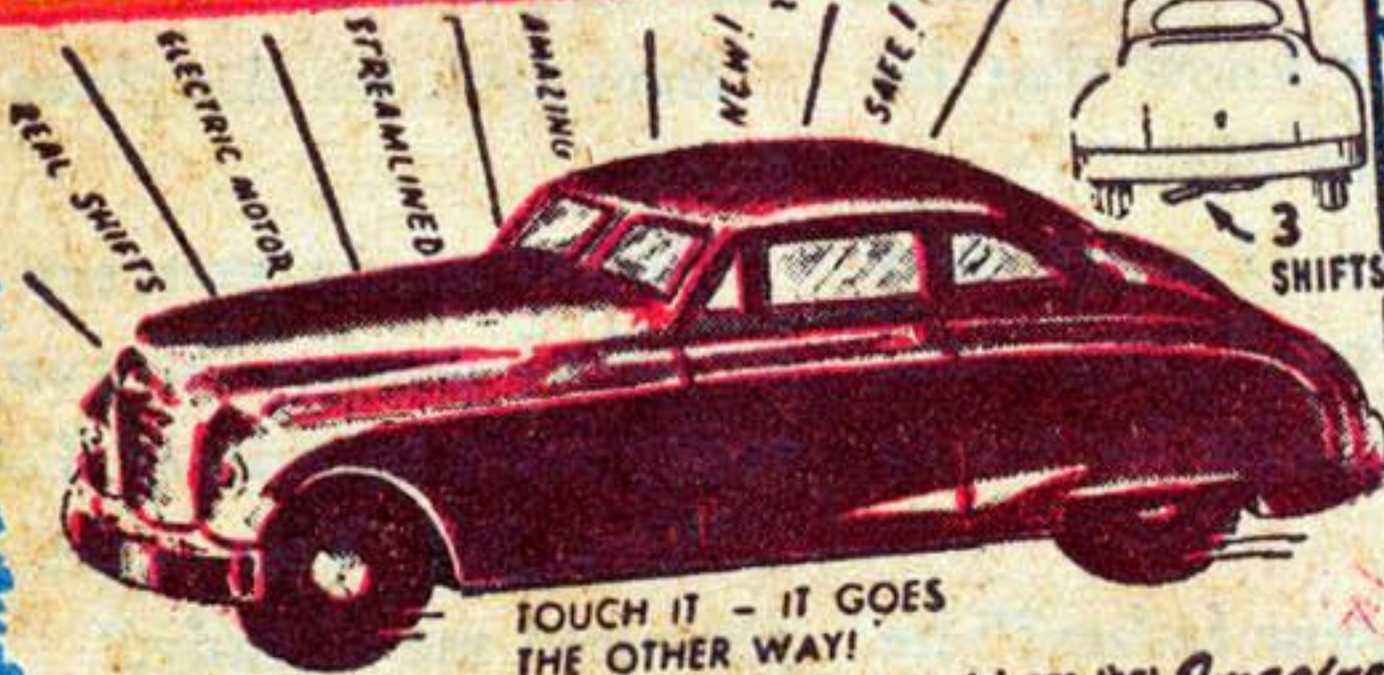
Tom seemed almost a nice lad, considering his family. He was always polite to Sam and seemed very considerate to Ramona. But there was a shifty look in his eyes that made Sam

wonder about him. About once or twice, Sam had surprised Tom in the ranchhouse, alone, looking around at all the fine furnishings with an expression that seemed, to Sam, greed for the property rather than love for 'Mona.

Tex Blake also came 'round to call on Ramona now and then. And, it looked as if Ramona liked him much better than Tom. Sam would have been happy to see Ramona marry Tex. He was a former cowhand who was now a road supervisor for the railroad and a two-fisted, good-hearted, honest young man. But Tex was always traveling, and Ramona saw so much more of Tom Nixon that, if anything, Tom was closer to getting her to say yes to his proposal.

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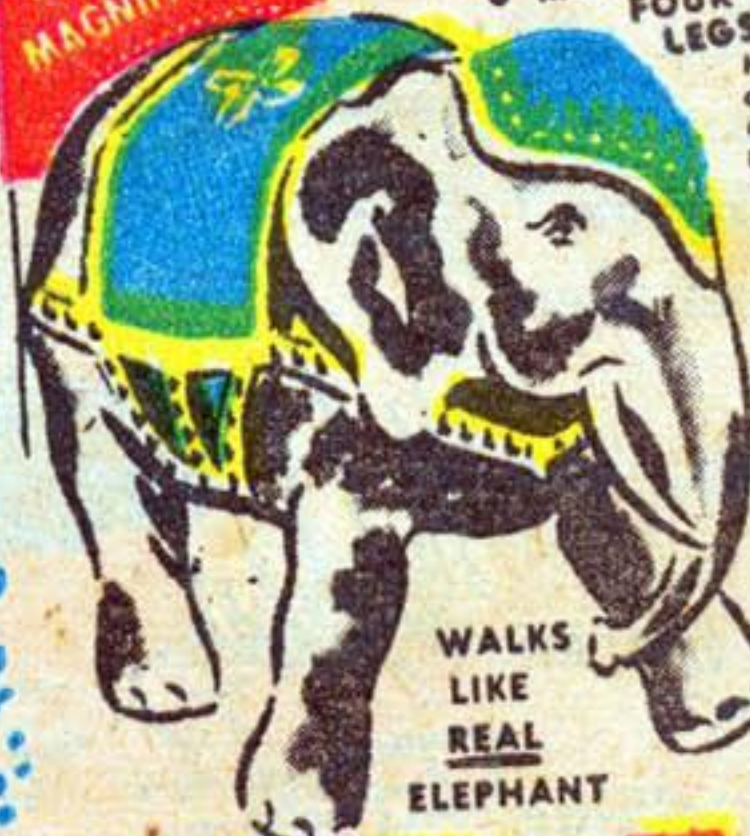
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Whenever Tex came through town, he managed to spend a few days with the Larsons, and it was wonderful to see him and Ramona together on the ranch. One day, when Tex was there, Sam had to go into town, and he stopped in the bank to make a deposit. From Holt's private office, he heard two voices. Holt was talking to Tom Nixon.

"She doesn't seem to want me, Holt," Tom said. "What should I do?"

"Make her want you. You have to marry her. After that I'll pay you off, and you'll sell me the ranch."

"What about Blake, that guy from the railroad?" Tom asked.

"He's visitin' at the ranch now."

"Wait till he leaves, and then ask Ramona again."

"But I tell you, Holt, she keeps saying no."

"Well, Tom, then I got an idea . . . night, you'll . . ."

The bank clerk began talking to Sam then, and Sam could not hear more of the conversation. But he was soon to learn the rest of the plan.

That evening, after supper, Sam and Tex walked out to look over the horses, and Ramona stayed in the house. Unnoticed by the men, Tom Nixon sneaked into the house and spoke to Ramona in the parlor.

"Now, Ramona, I didn't want to tell you this, but Sam's in trouble."

"Daddy in trouble? What do you mean?" She was alarmed.

"It's like this. He owes so much money that he'll lose everything. Holt Parkinson is willing to bail him out, but only if I can marry you and then sell the ranch to Holt."

"Oh, no, Tom. You can't mean that," she sobbed.

"I sure do, Ramona. Why should you say no? I love you and will always make you happy, and you'll save your father's reputation. He will get enough to retire in town, and no one will ever know that he *had* to sell out to Holt."

"I guess, er . . . I guess then I have to, Tom," she said. "There's nothing else for me to do."

"Can we tell your father?" he said hurriedly.

"Yes, I'll call him in."

"Now, Ramona, don't say anything about selling the ranch."



"I'll take care of that after we're married."

Ramona went slowly to the door and called in a broken voice, "Daddy, would you come in here, please. Tex will excuse you for a few minutes."

Sam came into the house, curious at first and then annoyed when he saw Tom. He no longer made any attempt to hide his dislike for the boy.

"Daddy, Tom and I are going to be married," said Ramona.

"Are you sure this is what you want?" Sam asked, mean-

while walking to his daughter and taking her shoulders in his strong hands.

Ramona started to answer, looked at Sam, faltered for a moment, and started to cry.

Sam took his daughter in his arms.

"What made you say that," he asked gently, "if you don't really want to marry Tom?"

"Cut it," Tom said. "She promised me already."

"Shut up!" was all Sam said. And he asked Ramona to tell him the whole story.

Ramona repeated Tom's tale about Sam's trouble and how Holt Parkinson was kind enough to bail him out, if Ramona would marry Tom. She told Sam that Tom was to sell the ranch as soon as he married Ramona. As he listened, Sam became enraged and asserted that he was *not* broke and never would sell the ranch.

He told Ramona and Tom, who cringed by the door, about having overheard the conversation at the bank. Then, suddenly, he called Tex into the house and asked him a question.

"What would you do, Tex, if you owned this ranch?"

"Well," Tex drawled, "guess I'd try to be the best rancher in the territory, and I might be, at that."

"Tex, walk Ramona around a bit outside," Sam ordered. "I've got some business here with Tom." Surprised, Tex and Ramona walked out of the house arm in arm. Sam turned to Tom. Afterwards, Tom had a better understanding of what Sam meant him to know.

And outside there was a good understanding between Tex and Ramona, too.

THE END

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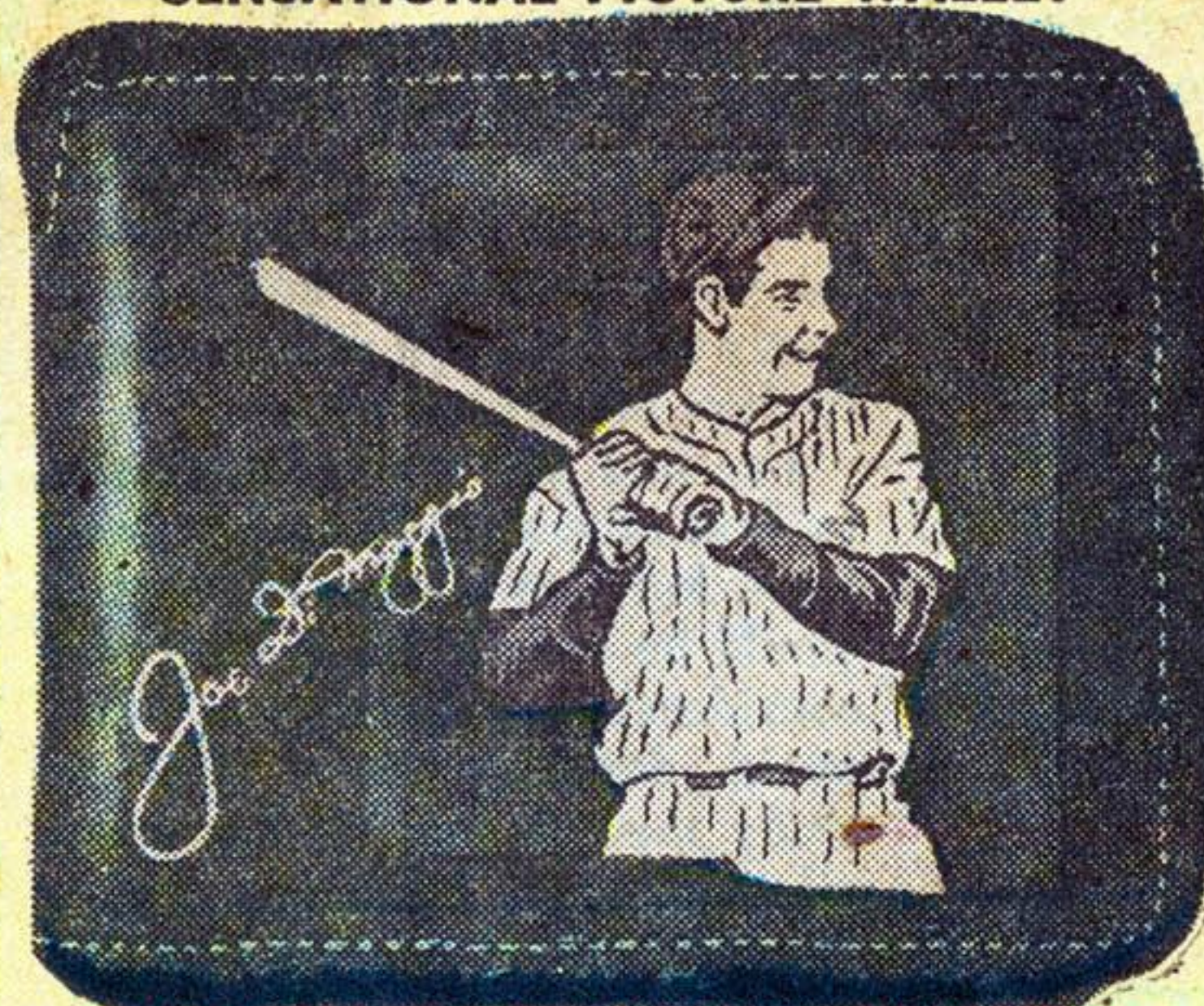


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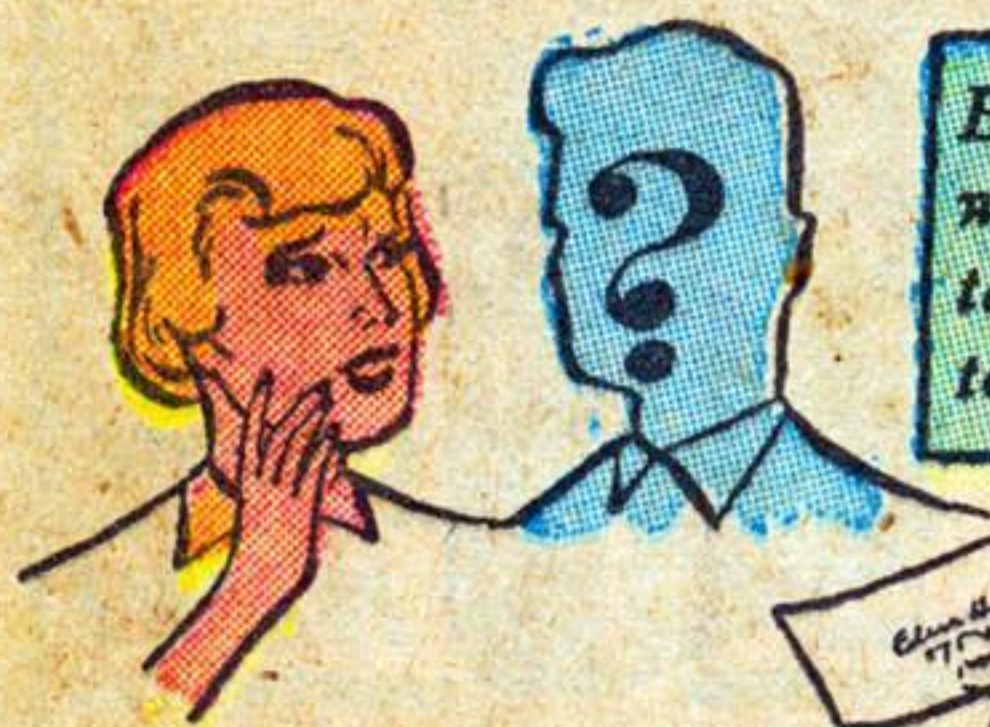
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The Man I'm Going To Marry



Each girl has her own ideas on romance and the man with whom she shares it . . . the one who will play the most important role in her life! Read the following letters from our readers to learn about the man they are going to marry—and why!

Sister's Beau Target for Cupid . . .

My future husband dated my sister steadily for six months—before he even knew that I was alive! When she stopped dating him to go out with another boy, he began to notice me. He likes to have a good time and I do, too. So we found common interests from our first date to our engagement. He's a sports enthusiast, and I never tire of sitting through nine innings of a baseball game or ten rounds of a fight. He has a good job as a salesman in a clothing store, and he's saved enough money for a down payment on a home. From where I sit, our future looks sunny!

I think my sister is a bit sorry that she threw him over for another fellow, but it is too late. The two of us are very much in love, and I don't think that her change of heart will make any difference to him or me.

P. D.
Jacksonville, Fla.

Mud Pies Mean Romance . . .

I knew I was going to marry K... since the time when we first made mud pies together as kids. He's lived next door to me all my life, and even our parents have planned on our getting married. Don't get me wrong though: we are very much in love with each other and our parents aren't forcing the issue. K... is the most lovable creature I have ever met—and friendly to everyone. I've

seen him go out of his way to help a buddy and stick by him when the going was rough. Men like K... have the courage of their convictions, and I certainly admire him for that.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful future with him . . . how can I miss?

T. J.
Freemont, Ohio

Studious Fellow Is Only One . . .

I've been waiting for my fiancé to graduate from medical school, and now that time is almost here. He has worked very hard and is conscientious about his studies. We've seldom had dates during the week because he had such a heavy schedule, but now my lonely days are almost over.

I've had plenty of opportunity to date others while he has been busy, but I've always felt that it would be unfair. He is kind and considerate and certainly couldn't avoid devoting more time to study than to me. He has spent all these years building a future for the both of us, and now it's up to me to live up to expectations . . . as his wife.

A. A.
Columbus, Ohio

No Movie Idol . . .

The fellow that I'm going to marry will be in a position to give me everything I've always wanted—with no reservations. I've never been an overly ambitious person, and my big aim in

life has been to have a comfortable home and a few luxuries. Ralph has promised me a life free from financial worries and that is important! I've been working since I was fifteen, and I'm tired of pinching pennies and worrying about my family's bills. Maybe that doesn't sound romantic to many girls, but Ralph is a good person and certainly dependable, and this is far more romantic to me than a facsimile of a movie idol!

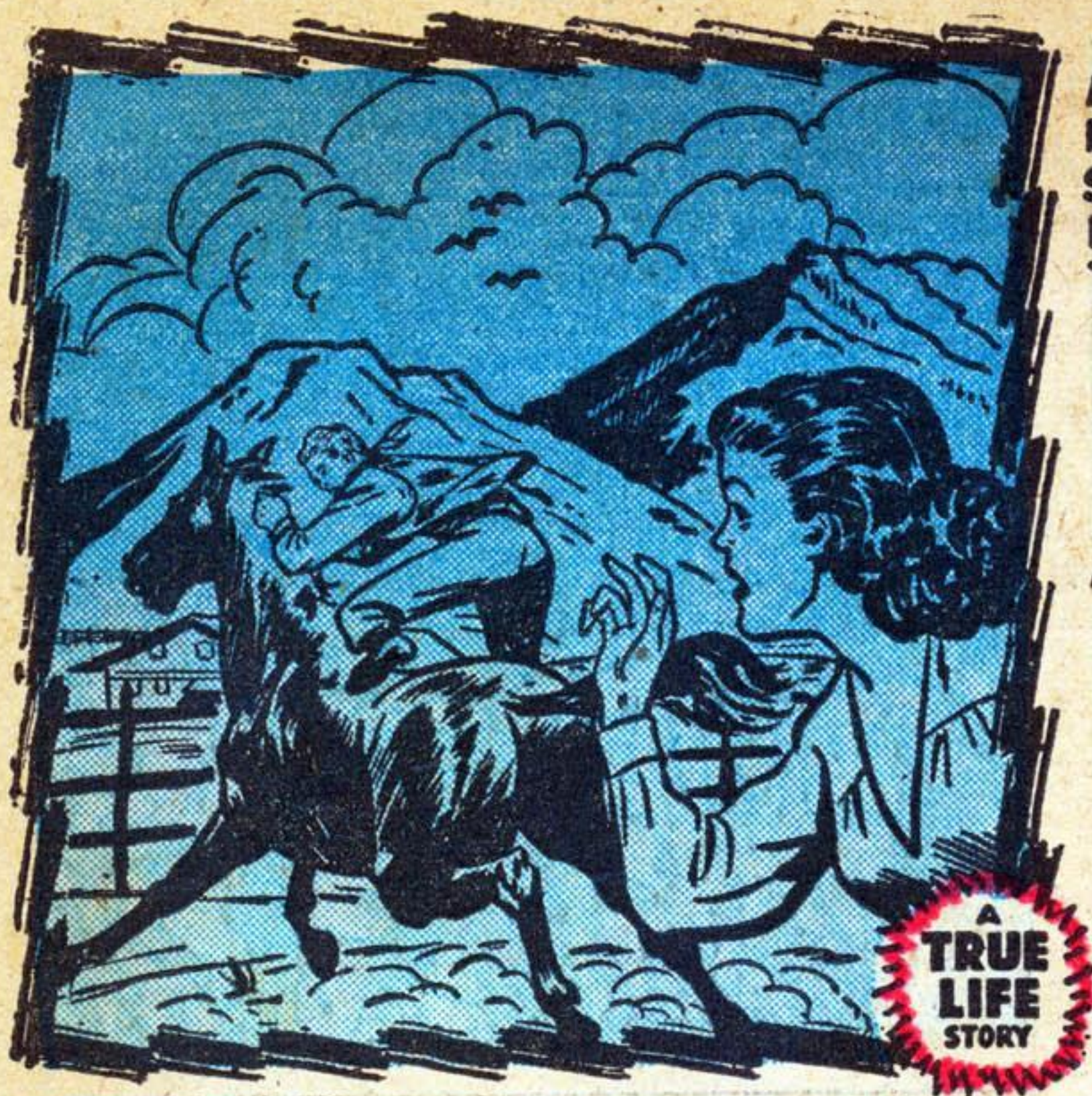
V. C. M.
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Future Husband and Girl Alike . . .

When I first met Jimmy, I thought he was priggish and dull, but I learned later what a mistake I had made. We met at a party, and he attached himself to me all evening. I was so busy extending my attentions to all the other fellows that I didn't take the time to note that Jimmy was just conservative and shy—and certainly far from being a bore.

We became engaged a few months ago and plan to be married soon. I'm not the life-of-the-party type myself, and I can appreciate Jimmy's shyness. We really are very much alike. I suppose I was slow to recognize the similarity because I didn't understand my own feelings. A few of my friends think that men like Jimmy make dull companions, but I know differently. He's as interesting as any of those "personality plus" men I've met . . . and I'll be proud to be his wife!

K. M. L.
Chicago, Ill.



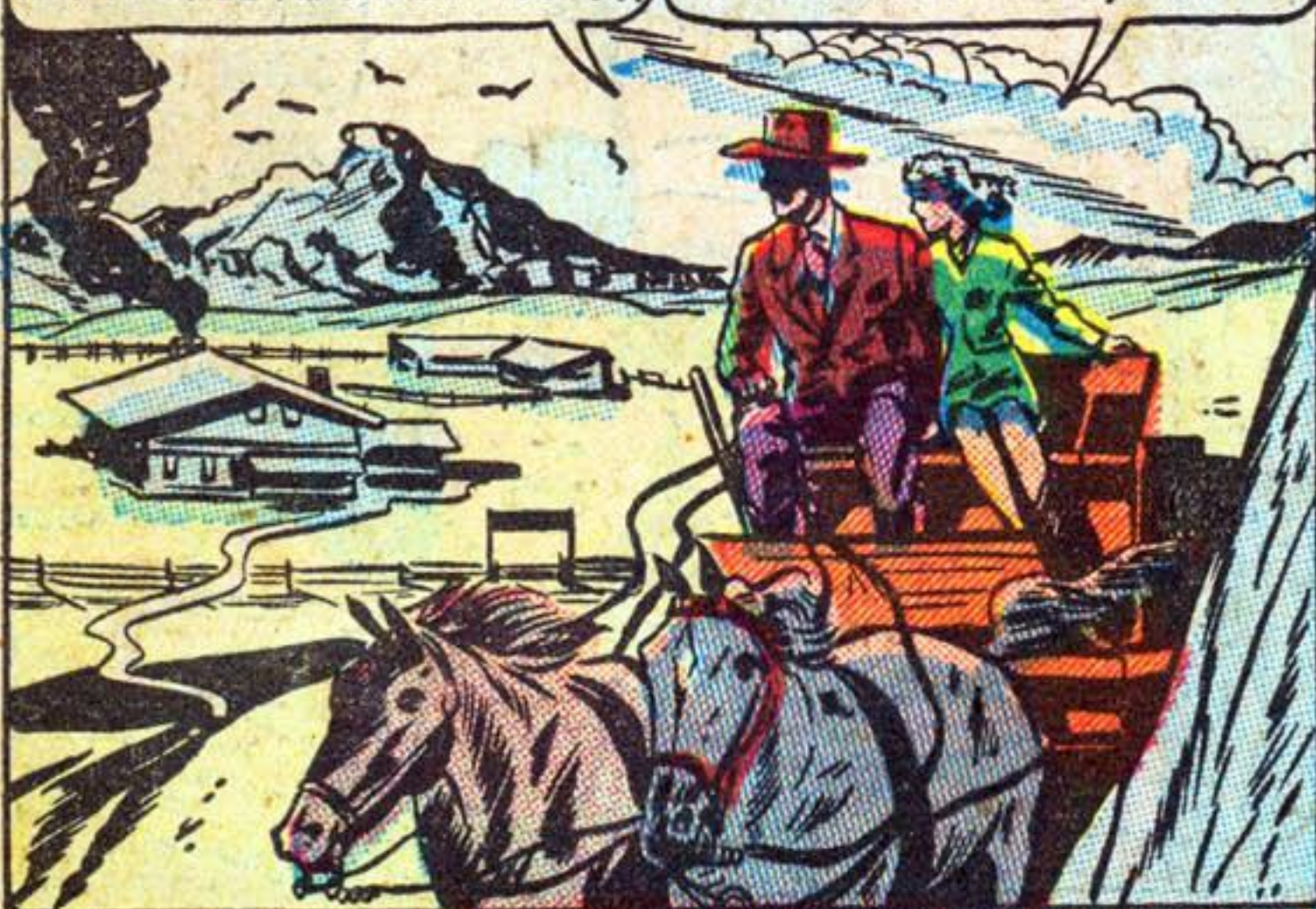
AS WE APPROACHED THE RANCH WHICH WAS TO BE MY FUTURE HOME, I LITTLE DREAMT OF THE DREAD SECRET HIDDEN BEHIND ITS SILENT WALLS, OR THE MYSTERY MAN WHOSE PRESENCE HOVERED OVER THE RANCH, AND OVER MY HEART, LIKE A PALL!

THE MYSTERY MAN OF THE LAZY-T!

6373

I WAS BREATHLESS WITH HAPPINESS AS THE VAST PANORAMA OF LARRY'S RANCH SPREAD OUT BEFORE MY EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME! THE MAN I LOVED HAD BROUGHT ME HOME TO MARRY ME... BUT THERE WAS MYSTERY LURKING HERE... A DARK, NAMELESS THING...

THERE IT IS, MARY! THE "LAZY-T"! OH! IT'S WONDERFUL! I'M GOING AND IT'S ALL MINE... AND YOURS! TO BE SO HAPPY HERE, LARRY!



THIS WAS ALL NEW TO ME! LARRY HAD SWEEPED ME OFF MY FEET BACK IN DETROIT WHERE I'D BEEN WORKING! HE WAS A DARK, BROODING TYPE AND I, WELL, I WAS YOUNG, MY THOUGHTS FILLED WITH ROMANCE, MY HEART READY FOR LOVE!

HERE SHE IS, MOM... THE GIRL WHO'LL BE MY BRIDE IN TWO WEEKS!

MARY! YOU'RE JUST AS LARRY DESCRIBED YOU IN HIS LETTERS! WELCOME, MY DEAR!



MRS. DENNIS, LARRY'S MOTHER, WAS SWEET! BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE A HEAVY AIR OF SADNESS ABOUT HER... AN OPPRESSION! ANYWAY, SHE MADE ME FEEL AT HOME AT ONCE...

I'M GLAD, SO GLAD THAT LARRY FOUND SOMEONE LIKE YOU, MARY! HE NEEDS TAKING CARE OF... VERY MUCH! ESPECIALLY SINCE TOM LEFT!

TOM? WHO'S TOM?



I DON'T WONDER LARRY HASN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT TOM! HE HASN'T SPOKEN THAT NAME IN FIVE YEARS! WHEN TOM WENT AWAY, LARRY CHANGED... BECAME MOODY... QUIET! I GUESS HE NEVER GOT OVER THE SHOCK! TOM IS MY OTHER SON... LARRY'S BROTHER!



THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD HEARD HIS NAME, OR HAD EVEN KNOWN OF THE EXISTENCE OF LARRY'S BROTHER! AS MRS. DENNIS SPOKE OF TOM I SAW HER HABITUAL SADNESS LIFT...AND HER EYES SPARKLED!

OH! BUT WHY DID HE GO AWAY? AND WHY DIDN'T LARRY MENTION HIM TO ME?

HE RODE OFF INTO THOSE HILLS ONE DAY AND NEVER CAME BACK! MY POET SON! HE WAS SO GOOD...SO KIND...NOT LIKE...

MOTHER!!



IT WAS LARRY! HIS EYES WERE BLAZING WITH A FURY I HAD NEVER BEFORE SEEN HIM SHOW! HIS VOICE WAS COLD AND SHARP! SUDDENLY, WITHOUT KNOWING WHY, I FELT FEAR...FEAR OF THE MAN I LOVED!

MOTHER! HOW OFTEN MUST I TELL YOU NOT TO MENTION THAT NAME?!

OH! I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO, SON! I COULDN'T HELP IT! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!



LARRY, HIS FACE WHITE WITH RAGE, TURNED AND WALKED OFF! THERE WAS TROUBLE HERE...DEEP AND TERRIBLE...AND I HAD TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT! I FOLLOWED HIM!

LARRY! WAIT, DARLING, PLEASE! WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED... DON'T YOU THINK I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT?

ALL RIGHT, MARY! I WANTED TO SPARE YOU ALL THIS...BUT AS LONG AS MOTHER COULDN'T KEEP QUIET, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT TOM...**THE TRUTH!!**



TOM WAS THE APPLE OF MY MOTHER'S EYE, MARY! SHE DOTED ON HIM! HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE SICKLY ONE WHILE I WAS THE STRONG ONE...WHILE I WORKED HARD, HE READ POETRY...PAINTED PICTURES! WHERE MOTHER WAS CONCERNED, TOM COULD DO NO WRONG! EVEN TODAY... AFTER NOT SEEING HIM FOR FIVE YEARS...AND KNOWING NOW WHAT HE **REALLY** WAS...SHE CAN'T FORGET HIM!

HOW COULD SHE? **HE'S HER SON, TOO!**



MARY, TOM WAS A CROOK AND A WOULD-BE MURDERER! HE TRIED TO KILL ME...SO HE COULD HAVE THE RANCH ALL TO HIMSELF AND CONTINUE LIVING A LAZY LIFE! WHEN HE FAILED IN THAT...HE WENT AWAY LIKE THE COWARD HE WAS!

OH...LARRY! **HOW AWFUL!**



YES! IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK! AND THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU SO MUCH, MARY...TO MAKE UP FOR HIM!

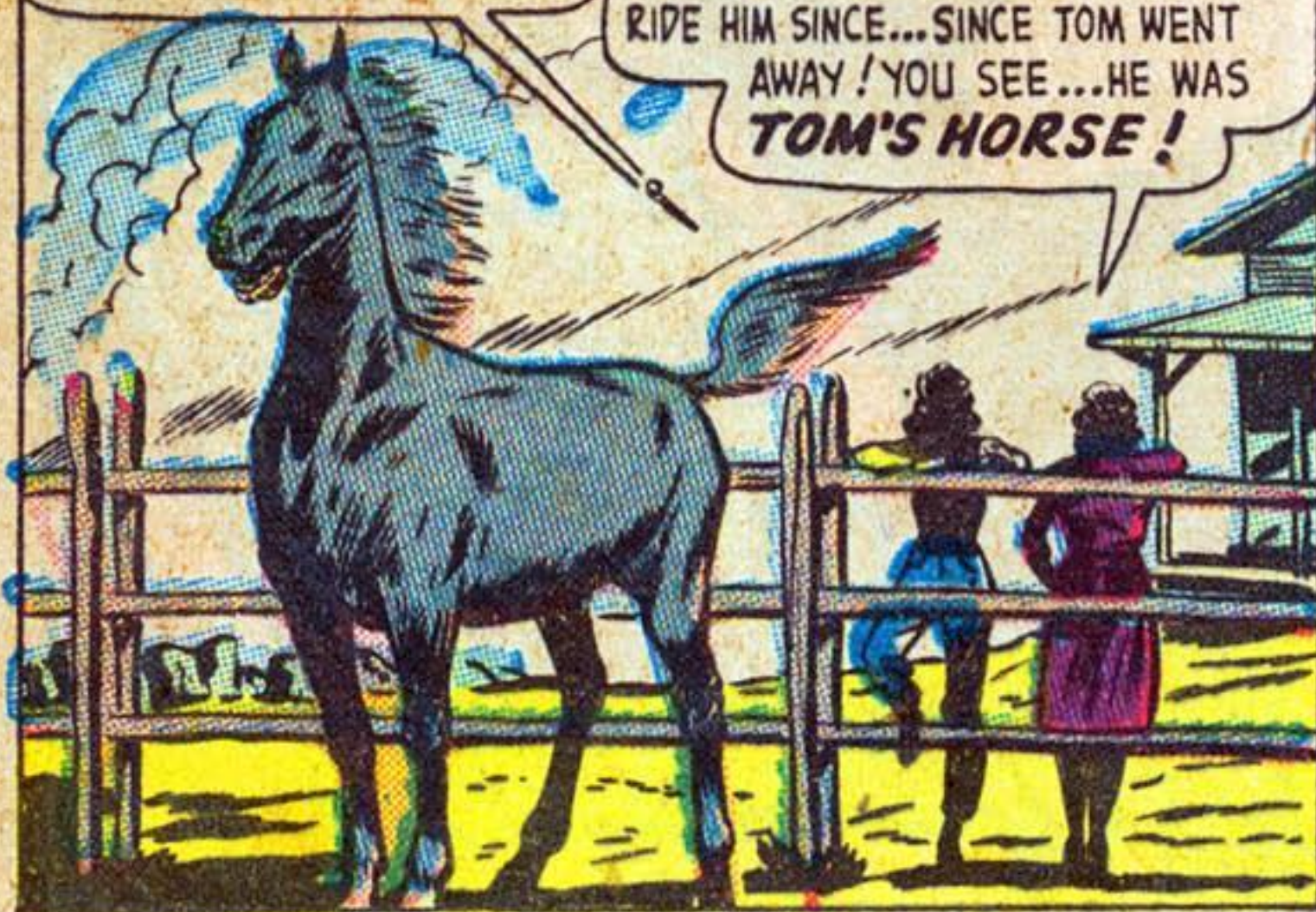
I UNDERSTAND... AND I WON'T MENTION HIM AGAIN!



THUS WAS MY FIRST DAY AT THE LAZY-T SPENT! I KNEW THAT FOR THE GOOD OF ALL OF US, I HAD TO FORGET THE BROTHER WHO HAD WANTED TO KILL LARRY! I SPENT MY TIME HELPING MRS. DENNIS, AND GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE LARGE RANCH!

OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HORSE! WHAT'S HIS NAME, MRS. DENNIS?

MERCURY! HE'S BEAUTIFUL... BUT MEAN! NOBODY'S BEEN ABLE TO RIDE HIM SINCE... SINCE TOM WENT AWAY! YOU SEE... HE WAS **TOM'S HORSE!**



THE SPECTER OF THE LOST BROTHER HAD ARISEN ONCE MORE! THE MOTHER COULD NOT HELP TALKING ABOUT HIM, AND I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING HOW HAPPY SHE LOOKED WHEN SHE DID!

HE HAD A WAY, TOM DID, WITH ANIMALS AND WITH PEOPLE! THEY TOOK TO HIM ...LIKED HIM!

BUT, MRS. DENNIS, LARRY TOLD ME ABOUT WHAT TOM TRIED TO DO! IT WAS AN AWFUL THING!



YES, MARY, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, TOO! LARRY TOLD ME... AFTER TOM LEFT! BUT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE! COME, MARY... ENOUGH OF ALL THIS! LET ME SHOW YOU THE WING OF THE HOUSE WHERE YOU AND LARRY WILL LIVE!

LARRY TOLD ME YOU HAD IT ALL FIXED UP!



THERE WERE FOUR ROOMS IN THE EAST WING OF THE HOUSE, AND HERE I WAS TO MAKE MY HOME AS MRS. LARRY DENNIS!

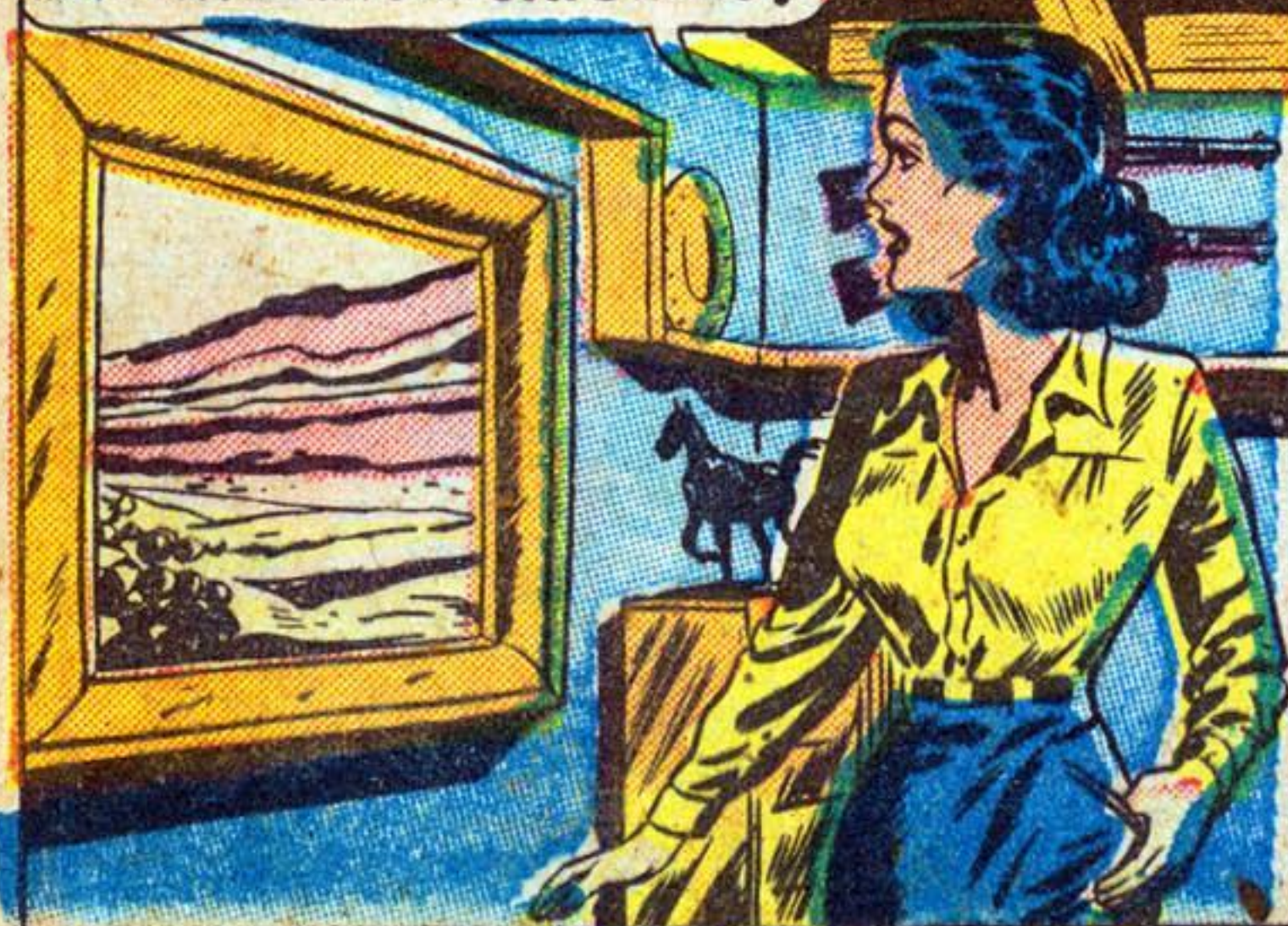
OH! HOW PERFECT! HOW CAN I **EVER** THANK YOU?

MAKING MY SON HAPPY IS ALL THE THANKS I NEED, MARY! I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE SO YOU CAN GET ACQUAINTED! AFTER ALL, YOU'LL PROBABLY SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE HERE!



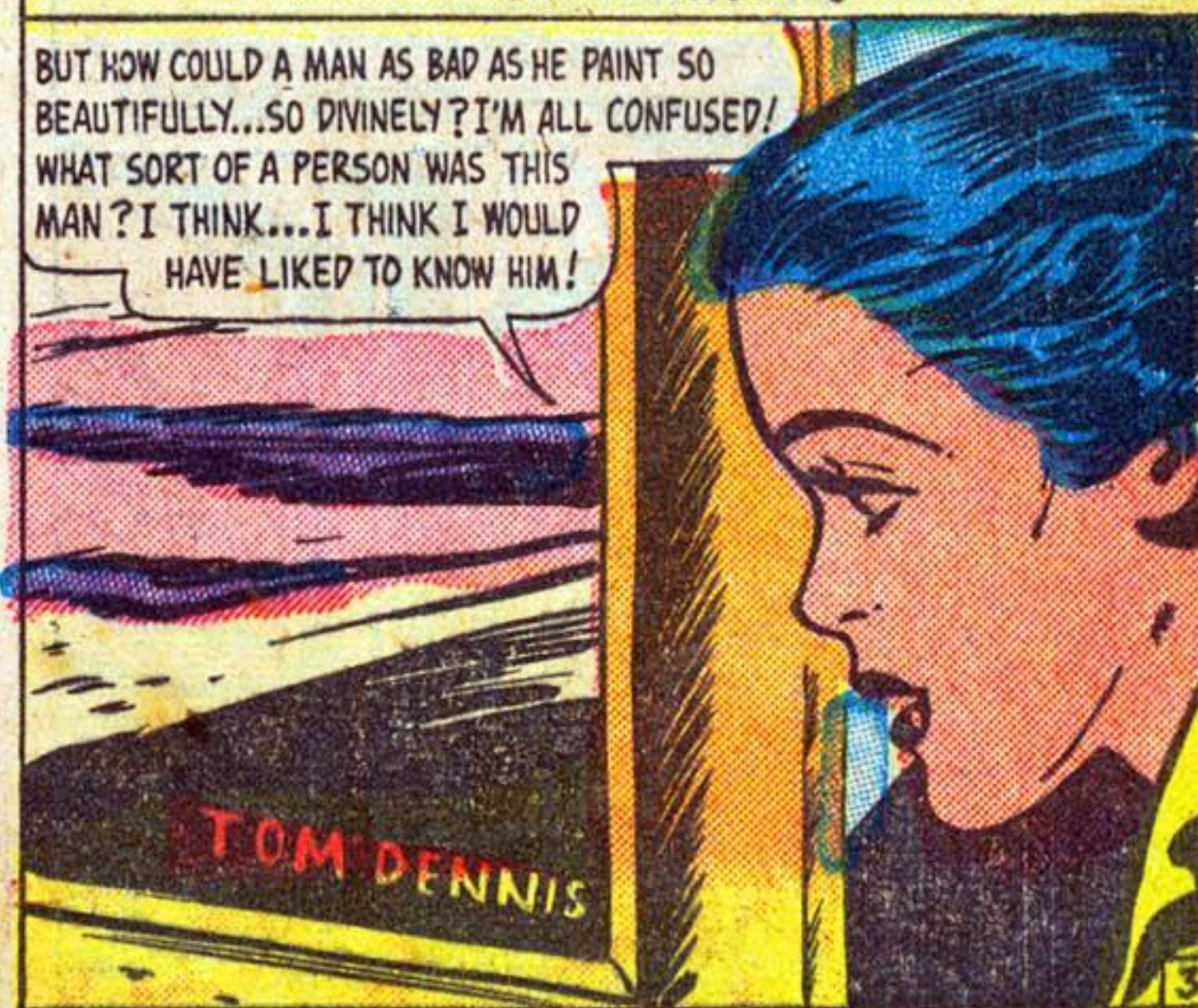
AS I BROWSED ABOUT THE ROOMS I BASKED IN A GLOW OF HAPPINESS! THIS WAS MY DREAM HOME, WHERE MY LIFE AND LARRY'S WOULD GROW! EVERYTHING ABOUT IT WAS PERFECT... EVEN THE PICTURES ON THE WALLS! ESPECIALLY **ONE**...

IT'S LIKE A DREAM... A DREAM OF LOVE... OF HAPPINESS! WHY... IT'S AN **ORIGINAL!**



THEN, IN THE BOTTOM CORNER OF THIS PAINTING THAT WAS LIKE POETRY, THE PRODUCT OF A SENSITIVE, BEAUTIFUL MIND... I SAW THE SIGNATURE OF THE ARTIST... **TOM DENNIS!**

BUT HOW COULD A MAN AS BAD AS HE PAINT SO BEAUTIFULLY... SO DIVINELY? I'M ALL CONFUSED! WHAT SORT OF A PERSON WAS THIS MAN? I THINK... I THINK I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO KNOW HIM!



THE THOUGHT FORMED IN MY MIND BEFORE I WAS AWARE OF IT! WHY WAS I SO INTERESTED IN THIS PERSON WHOM I HAD NEVER SEEN? IT WAS STRANGE, BUT I COULD FEEL HIS PRESENCE ALL ABOUT ME... IN THESE ROOMS! HE SEEMED TO BE NEAR ME, TO BE LOOKING AT ME! I FOUND MYSELF BLUSHING, AND, TO COVER UP MY CONFUSION, I PICKED UP A BOOK!

WHAT'S COME OVER ME? I'M... I'M TREMBLING! I'M POSITIVE THAT THESE WERE HIS ROOMS... BEFORE HE WENT AWAY!



COULD I NEVER GET AWAY FROM HIM? THE BOOK WAS A COLLECTION OF POETRY, AND... THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR WAS...

TOM DENNIS! HE NOT ONLY READ POETRY... HE WROTE IT! AND IT WAS PUBLISHED!



FOR HOURS I SAT ALONE, READING PAGE AFTER PAGE OF TOM'S POETRY... DRINKING IN THE BEAUTY AND LOVELINESS HIS WORDS BROUGHT TO ME! VISIONS OF A HAPPY, FULL LIFE FLOATED ABOUT ME, CONJURED UP BY THE SPLENDOR OF THE POEMS...



AND WHEN I WAS THROUGH I WAS IN A DAZE! THIS POETRY WAS THE WORK OF ONE WHO HAD NO EVIL IN HIM! THIS MAN COULDN'T THREATEN TO KILL TO ROB! THIS WAS ONE WHOM EVERYONE MUST LOVE... AND WHO LOVED EVERYBODY!

HOW STRANGE THAT LARRY CAN HATE HIM SO!

MARY! MARY! WHERE ARE YOU?



I HEARD LARRY'S VOICE ONLY VAGUELY! SOMEHOW, I COULD PAY NO ATTENTION! WHEN HE CAME INTO THE ROOM HE SAW ME CLUTCHING TOM'S BOOK TO MY BREAST... GAZING AT TOM'S PAINTING!

OH! SO HERE YOU... MARY! YES, LARRY! **TOM'S PAINTING!** THAT PAINTING! **TOM'S BOOK!** THAT BOOK!



LARRY'S EYES WERE DILATED WITH FURY! HE TORE THE PAINTING DOWN FROM THE WALL... SEIZED THE BOOK FROM MY HANDS! I WATCHED HIS FRENZY CALMLY...

I TOLD MOTHER TO HIDE THEM! AND NOW YOU'VE FOUND THEM! YOU'VE SEEN! YES!... I'VE SEEN! HAVE YOU BEEN TELLING ME THE TRUTH, LARRY?



THE TRUTH? THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT?
SO YOU'RE AGAINST ME TOO! LIKE
MOTHER...LIKE MERCURY! ALL AGAINST
ME... **ON HIS SIDE!** THAT'S
HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN...SINCE I
WAS BORN!

I'M NOT AGAINST YOU! BUT I MUST
HAVE THE TRUTH, LARRY! WHAT I SEE
IN THE PAINTING, WHAT I READ IN
THE BOOK...CONTRADICTS ALL
YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT TOM!



IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN! HE'S NOT EVEN HERE...AND AGAIN
HE'S BEATEN ME! WHY? WHY? HOW CAN HE BE STRONGER
THAN I AM...EVEN IN HIS ABSENCE? EVEN WHEN HE'S
...HE'S...

HE'S WHAT, LARRY?
TELL ME! TELL
ME!



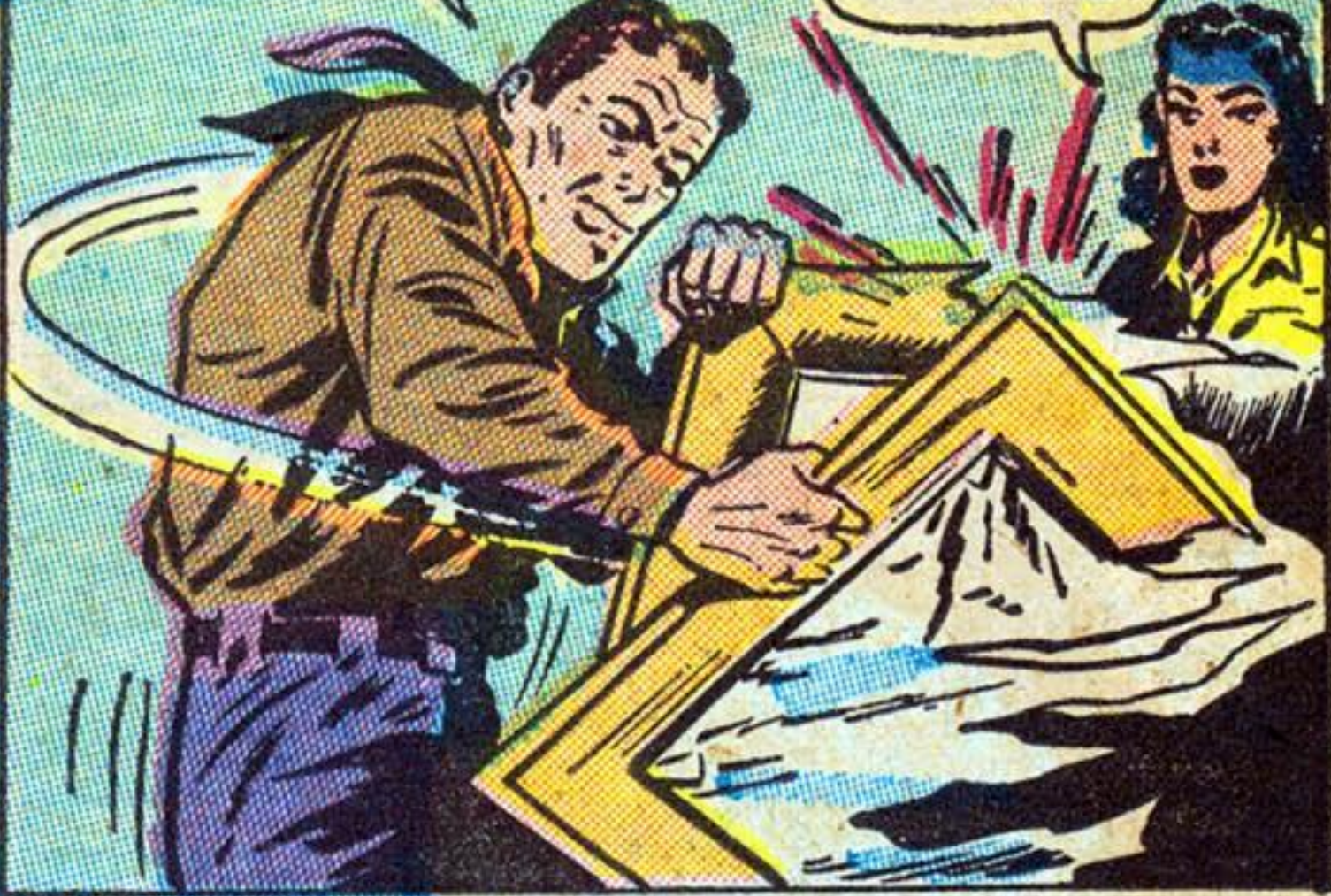
YOU SEE? **YOU LOVE HIM, TOO!** YOU WEEP FOR HIM AS IF YOU
KNEW HIM! BUT HE'S DEAD, I TELL YOU! AND HE CAN'T DEFEAT ME ANY
MORE! HE FELL OFF A CLIFF FIVE YEARS AGO...RUNNING AWAY LIKE
THE COWARD HE WAS! HE'S GONE! GONE FOREVER! THIS RANCH IS
MINE...ALL MINE! AND **YOU'RE**
MINE TOO, MARY!



HIS RAGE WAS TERRIBLE TO SEE...A BLIND, SENSELESS EXPLOSION OF
HELPLESS IRE! HE TORE THE PAINTING TO SHREDS, RIPPED THE PAGES OF
THE BOOK!

THERE! **THERE! THERE!!** HERE'S
WHAT YOU'VE SEEN...WHAT YOU'VE READ! IT'S
GONE NOW! **GONE! GONE!!**

NO, LARRY...IT ISN'T! IT'S
STILL WITH ME...IN MY
SOUL...IN MY MIND! I'LL
NEVER FORGET IT...YOU
CAN'T MAKE ME!



MY HEART STOPPED STILL! I DREADED WHAT I KNEW WAS COMING...
DREADED IT LIKE THE CLAP OF DOOM!

...**HE'S DEAD!!**

DEAD? TOM DEAD? OH...NO! NOT SUCH A
FINE PERSON...NOT HIM!



HE THREW HIS ARMS AROUND ME, KISSING MY FACE...SOBBING! BUT I FELT
ONLY COLDNESS TOWARD HIM! FOR MY HEART WAS WITH A DREAMER...A
PAINTER OF BEAUTIFUL THOUGHTS...**A CORPSE** WHO LAY AT THE
FOOT OF A CLIFF! **IT WAS TOM DENNIS I LOVED...** NOT
THIS STRANGE MADMAN WHO TORE PAINTINGS AND DESTROYED BOOKS...
TRYING TO HALT A FOREST FIRE WITH AN EYE-DROPPER!



SLEEP WAS IMPOSSIBLE THAT NIGHT! MY MIND WAS A MASS OF CONFUSION! HOW DID I REALLY FEEL ABOUT LARRY NOW? I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH A MYTH, AN UNREAL, LONG-DEAD PERSON! IF THIS WAS SO, COULD I REALLY LOVE LARRY?

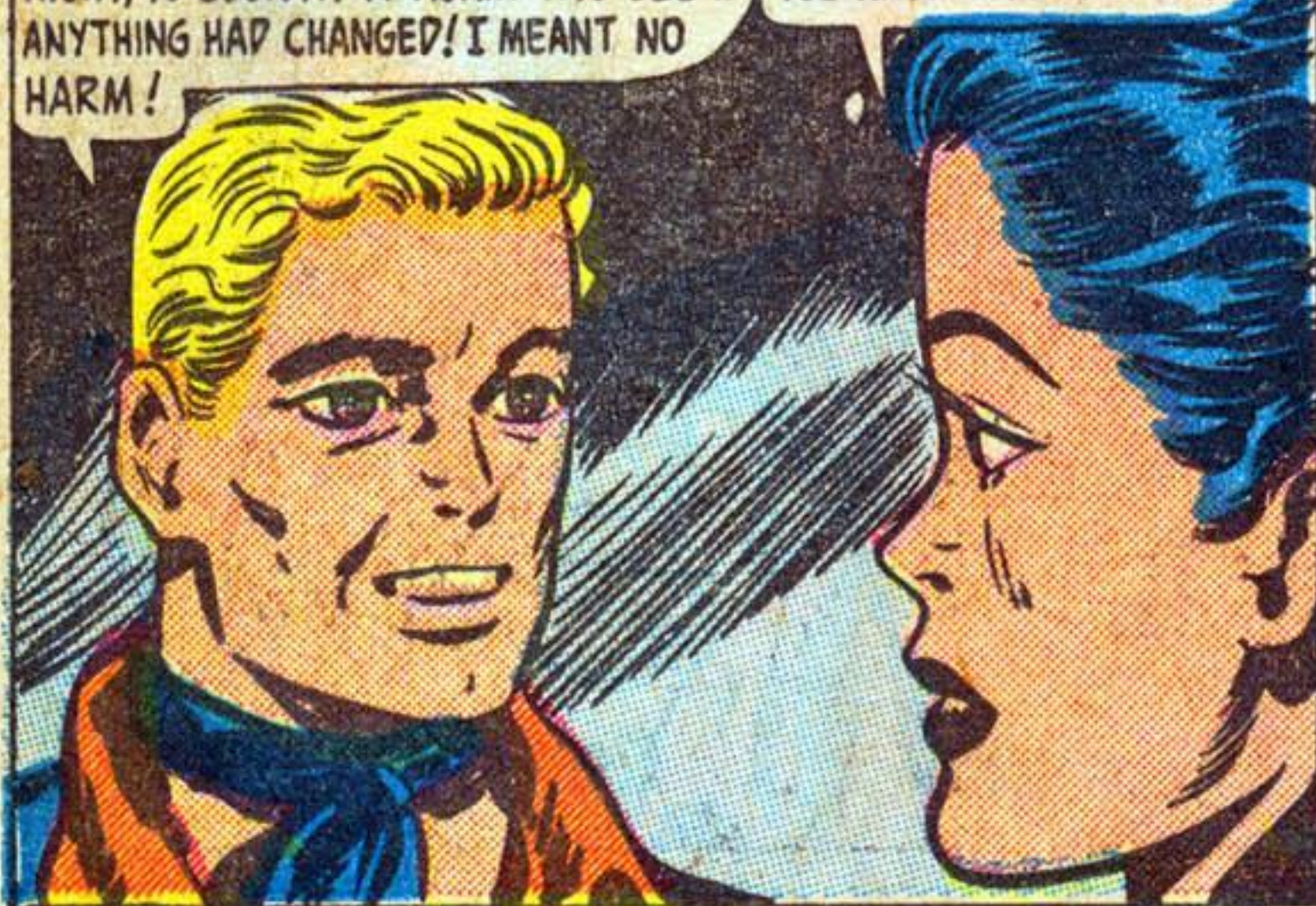
IT'S NOT FAIR TO EITHER OF US TO MARRY! I'LL GO AWAY TOMORROW...WAIT! WHO'S THAT? SOMEONE'S NEAR THE CORRAL!



HIS EYES WERE SAD AS THEY LOOKED AT ME! SAD, YES, BUT KIND, TOO! THERE WAS NOTHING IN THIS STRANGER TO FEAR...I KNEW THAT AT ONCE!...

I...I USED TO WORK HERE...FIVE YEARS AGO, MISS! I SPENT THE BEST PART OF MY LIFE HERE, AND I JUST CAME BY, AT NIGHT, TO LOOK AT IT AGAIN...TO SEE IF ANYTHING HAD CHANGED! I MEANT NO HARM!

I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T! BUT... YOU SAY YOU WORKED HERE FIVE YEARS AGO? DID...DID YOU KNOW TOM DENNIS?



BAD? GOOD? HE WASN'T EITHER, MISS! HE WAS JUST A MAN...AN ORDINARY MAN WHO LIKED FINE THINGS AND HATED TROUBLE! THEY SAY THAT'S WHY HE WENT AWAY...TO AVOID TROUBLE AND FIGHTING! TOM DENNIS WANTED QUIET AND PEACE SO HE COULD PAINT AND WRITE! THAT'S ALL HE WANTED...BUT HE COULDN'T GET IT HERE!

HE WENT AWAY ...? I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD! LARRY SAID HE WAS KILLED!



I WASN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK! SOMEHOW I FELT THE SPIRIT OF TOM NEAR ME, HELPING ME...PROTECTING ME! I WENT OUTSIDE AND THERE WAS A MAN, TALL AND LEAN, JUST STANDING THERE IN THE YARD...LOOKING AT THE HOUSE...

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

EH? OH...EXCUSE ME, MISS! I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB ANYONE!



HERE WAS MY CHANCE TO FIND OUT ABOUT TOM FROM AN OUTSIDER! I LEAPED AT IT...BUT THE STRANGER CAST HIS EYES DOWN, HESITATING...

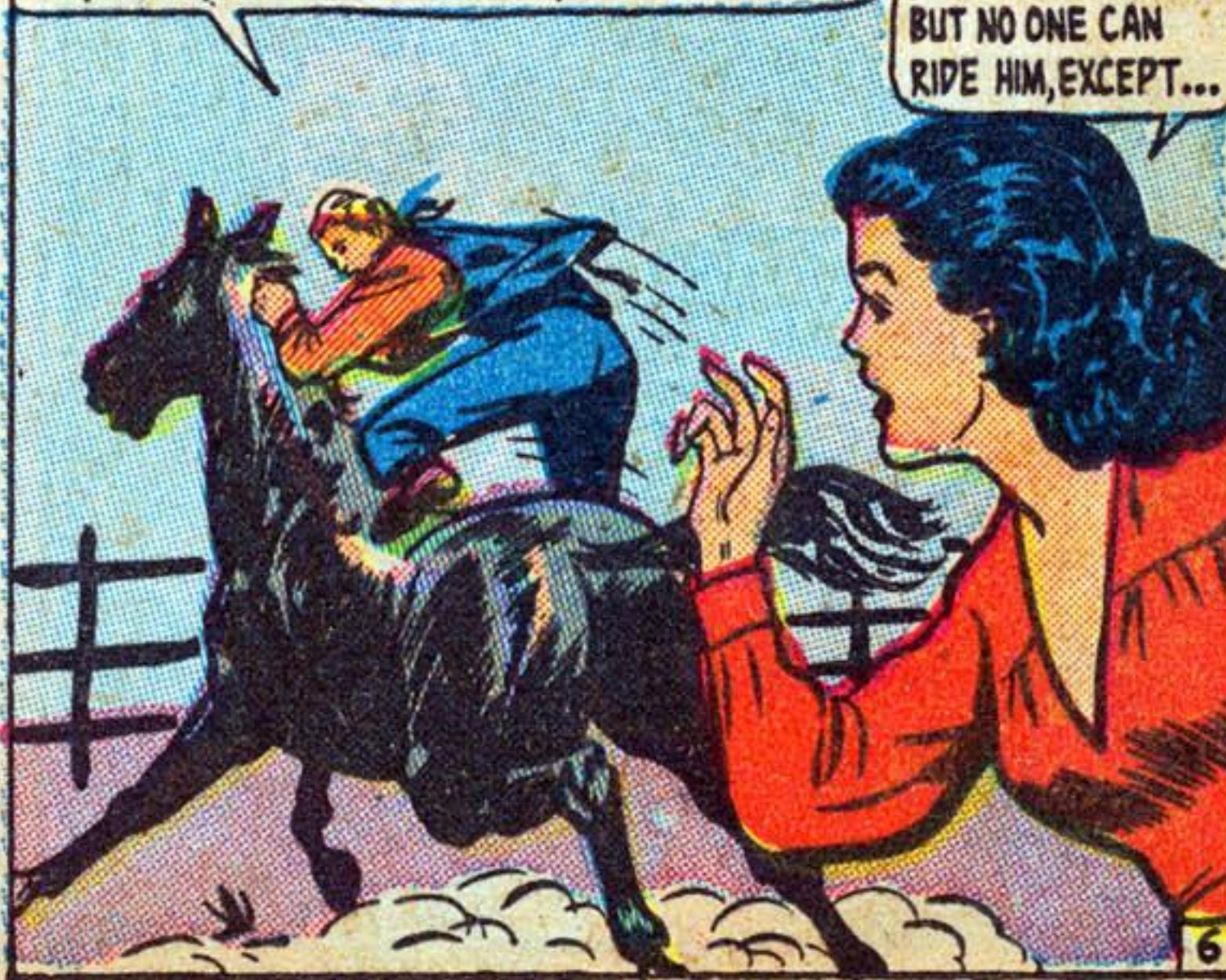
TOM DENNIS? YES, MISS! BUT HE'S GONE NOW...GONE FOREVER!

I KNOW, BUT TELL ME...WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE? WAS HE GOOD...WAS HE BAD? YOU'VE **GOT** TO TELL ME!



LARRY SAID THAT? THEN THAT'S HOW IT WAS, I GUESS! I WOULDN'T KNOW! I GUESS YOU'RE THE GIRL HE'S GOING TO MARRY, AREN'T YOU? TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, MISS...AND OF HIS MOTHER, TOO! GOOD-BYE!!

WAIT! YOU'RE TAKING ONE OF OUR HORSES! THAT'S MERCURY! BUT NO ONE CAN RIDE HIM, EXCEPT...



BUT THE PERSON'S NAME FROZE IN MY MOUTH! I HADN'T REALIZED ANYTHING UNTIL I SAW HIM LEAP ON MERCURY'S BACK AND RIDE AWAY! **NO ONE COULD RIDE MERCURY! NO ONE EXCEPT...**

TOM DENNIS! YOU'RE TOM DENNIS!



HE WAS GONE! HE VANISHED IN THE NIGHT AS I CRIED OUT AFTER HIM TO COME BACK! LARRY AND MRS. DENNIS WOKE UP AND CAME OUT TO SEE WHAT THE TROUBLE WAS!

MRS. DENNIS! LARRY! IT WAS TOM! HE WAS HERE! HE'S NOT DEAD! HE WAS HERE!

MY BOY... WAS... HERE?

SO HE DECIDED TO COME BACK, DID HE?



LARRY'S EYES WIDENED IN RAGE! HIS MOUTH TWITCHED SPASMODICALLY! I SUDDENLY REALIZED... **I WAS LOOKING AT A MADMAN!**

HE SAID HE'D STAY AWAY FOREVER! HE PROMISED! HE SAID HE KNEW I HATED HIM, AND HE'D GO AWAY TO SAVE MOTHER HEARTBREAK! HE BROKE HIS PROMISE! NOW I'LL FIND HIM AND KILL HIM... WITH MY BARE HANDS! I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO RID MY LIFE OF HIM... NOW I'LL MAKE SURE!



LARRY! DON'T! YOU'RE MAD! LARRY, YOU'RE SICK... SICK WITH JEALOUSY!

GET AWAY FROM ME! I'VE GOT TO KILL HIM! I'VE GOT TO!



HIS BLOW STUNNED ME! AS I FELL I HEARD HIM SHRIEKING MADLY... PLUNGING INTO THE BLACK OF NIGHT! NOW I UNDERSTOOD THE FEELING OF TERROR THAT WAS ALL ABOUT ME!... **THE TERROR** OF HIS JEALOUSY... OF HIS **INSANITY!**

I'LL GET YOU, TOM! I'LL FINISH YOU! HA! HA! HA!

DON'T! DON'T!



INSIDE THE HOUSE MRS. DENNIS AND I HUDDLED... TWO HELPLESS, CONFUSED WOMEN... WHILE, OUTSIDE AN UNSEEN DRAMA UNFOLDED!

LARRY IS SICK, MARY! THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM! HE HATED TOM SO... AND TOM WAS SO GOOD... MARY... SO GOOD!

I KNOW! I KNOW... BECAUSE, YOU SEE... I LOVE TOM, AND NOT LARRY!



WE SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER WAITING, WHILE SHE TOLD ME OF HER TWO SONS, ONE CALM, QUIET... THE OTHER TEMPESTUOUS, SINISTER!... AND OF THE QUARREL THEY HAD HAD WHICH DROVE TOM AWAY...

LARRY HAS TRIED TO DESTROY TOM'S MEMORY, BUT HE COULDN'T... TOM'S KINDNESS AND SPIRIT WERE HERE EVEN WHEN HE HIMSELF WASN'T!

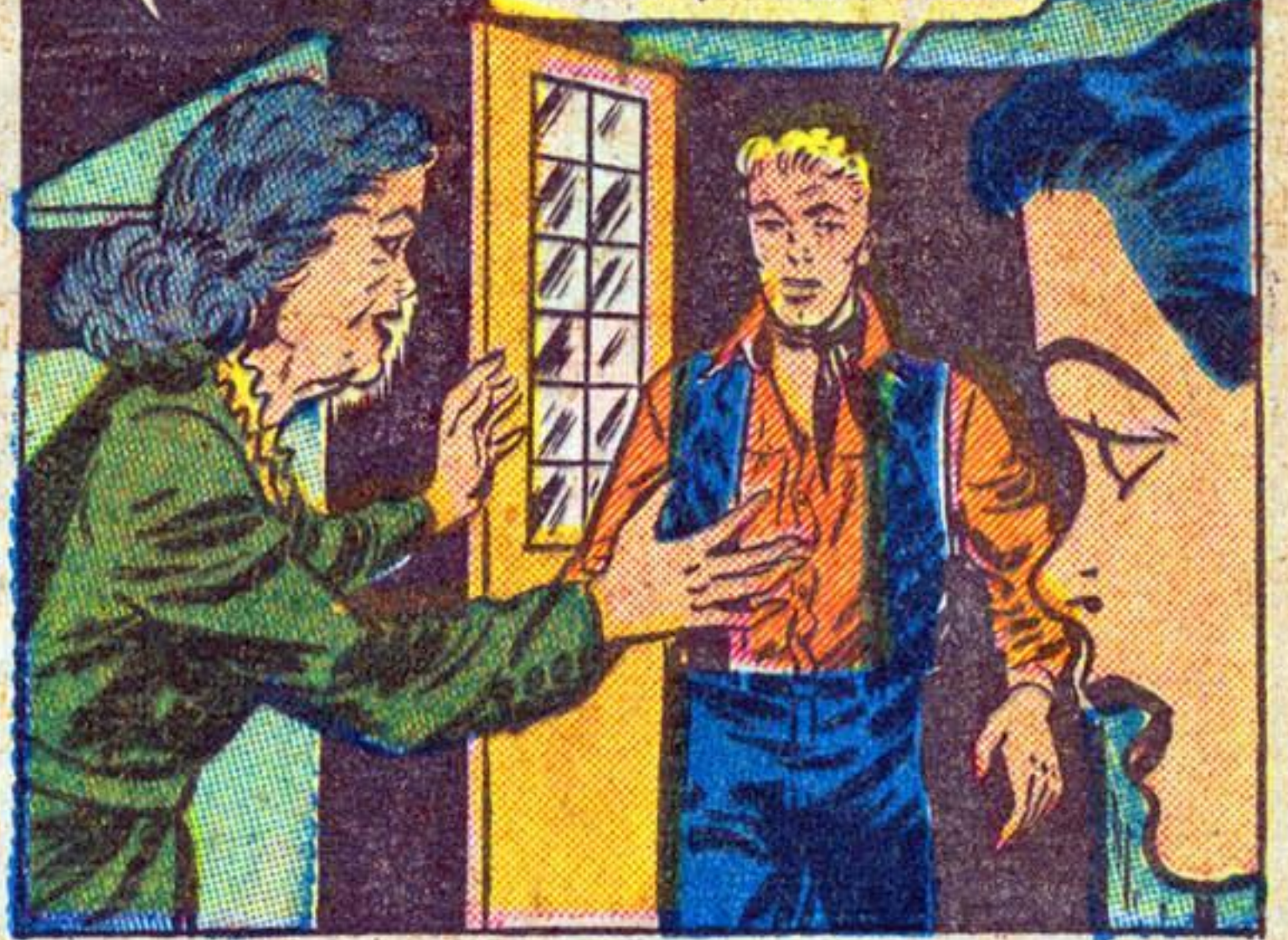
I KNOW... I FELT IT, TOO! BUT... WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW? LARRY'S SO UNCONTROLLABLE! HE WON'T RETURN UNTIL HE'S KILLED TOM!



THEN... WE HEARD FOOTSTEPS ON THE FRONT PORCH! SOMEONE WAS THERE, OPENING THE DOOR! WE DARED NOT EVEN BREATHE... AND THEN...

TOM! OH, TOM! MY BOY!

MOTHER! LARRY IS DEAD! HE FELL INTO THE RAVINE IN THE DARK! I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT I COULDN'T!



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AREN'T YOU, MOTHER? I KNOW... BECAUSE I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY FAR AWAY! I'VE BEEN WATCHING, TO MAKE SURE! POOR LARRY... PERHAPS IT'S BEST THIS WAY! HIS BROKEN MIND WAS MAKING HIM ILL... VERY ILL! I'M... I'M SORRY, MISS!

YES... PERHAPS IT IS BEST THIS WAY!



I FELT NO HATE FOR LARRY... NO ONE DID! WE THOUGHT OF HIM AS A SICK MAN WHO HAD DIED OF HIS ILLNESS! NOW HE WAS GONE, AND WITH HIM WENT THE HEARTBREAK HE HAD CAUSED... THE SADNESS! AND IN HIS PLACE WAS TOM...

TOM... I SAW THE PAINTING YOU DID... BUT IT'S BEEN DESTROYED!

THERE'LL BE OTHER PAINTINGS... JUST AS THERE'LL BE OTHER DAYS... FOR MOTHER... FOR YOU... AND FOR ME!



HIS WORDS RANG BELLS IN MY HEART! THEN, ONE BEAUTIFUL NIGHT A FEW WEEKS LATER...

MARY... I'VE WATCHED YOU FROM THE HILLS EVER SINCE YOU CAME! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THEN... AND I'VE LOVED YOU MORE EVERY DAY! MARY, TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!

YES, TOM! YES! YES... YES!



AT LAST I WAS IN HIS ARMS, AT LAST OUR LIPS MET! AT LAST I BELONGED TO THE MAN I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH BEFORE I HAD EVER SEEN HIM! COULD THERE BE A GREATER LOVE? NOT FOR ME... NOT FOR TOM!



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From Puzzled Hearts



IF CUPID HAS LASSED YOUR HEART--IF LOVE HAS YOU ROPED AND TIED--LET US HELP YOU TO FIND THE SOLUTION FOR YOUR PUZZLED HEART!

A Letter From Sibley, Iowa, Says . . .

Dear Editors,

Recently I've been going with a boy who is seventeen and nice-looking. I was with him one night when a girl friend of mine played up to him, and they left together. Now I ignore him. Do you think I'm doing the right thing?

B. L. J. R.
Sibley, Iowa

Dear B. L. J. R.,

If you aren't going steady with this young man, there is no reason why he can't date other girls. Yes, even your girl friends! If he ditched you on a date, that is something about which you have a right to be angry. The question is: do you still like this boy? If so, you'll never get anywhere by ignoring him. If you don't care about him, let him drop out of the picture and turn your attention to greener pastures.



Girls in Love with Teacher . . .

Dear Editors,

We are two fourteen-year-old girls who are unfortunately in love with our high school teacher who is twenty-six. We realize that the situation is hopeless since he happens to be married and very much in love with his wife. We are forced to see him

everyday since our high school is small, and we just don't know what to do or say to him, to establish a natural relationship. Can you help us?

S. I. and D. C.
Newark, N. J.

Dear S. I. and D. C.,

It isn't unusual for two young girls to have a crush on a teacher . . . especially if he is young and male! But you both should realize that he is happily married and completely out of your reach. It's because he is so far out of reach that you both are attracted to him. You have the opportunity of making him a real friend if you force yourselves to face the facts and accept the situation as it is: he is too old, too married, and too much *your* teacher!



Two Loves Too Many . . .

Dear Editors,

Two boys say that they are in love with me. One of them is in the Navy, and the other one is in my home town. I am only fifteen years old, and I can't decide which one I love. I'm not ready to marry yet because my future plans include college. What I want to know is what do I do with these two boys?

M. E. G.
Spartanburg, S. C.

Dear M. E. G.,

You seem to be doing all

right! You have two devoted admirers, and there is no urgency to choose between them. You have planned a bright future with a determination to carry it through. There is nothing "to do with these two boys" except have plenty of fun with them and enjoy yourself!



Rochester Girl Wrestles With Love . . .

Dear Editors,

I'm eighteen years old and deeply in love with a man I don't even know. He is twenty-five years old and a wrestler. I saw him at the wrestling matches. I just don't feel like going anywhere for fear that he'll call while I'm gone. I write to him to wish him luck but receive no answer. How can I meet him?

B. P.

Rochester, New York

Dear B. P.,

Fan letters seldom promote friendships. This young man, perhaps, receives other letters beside yours from ringside fans, so there is no need for you to sit by your telephone. If you are really interested, try to meet him through a social contact, or have someone introduce you to him.



Possessive Female Is De-possessed . . .

Dear Editors,

Even though I'm only seventeen years old, I'm in love with a boy who is a few years older than I am. I guess I made a mistake by bawling him out for not taking me to a baseball game, because I haven't heard from him since then. Now I don't know what to do. Have you any suggestions?

F. B. L.

Macon, Georgia

Dear F. B. L.,

Perhaps you will profit by this lesson by hiding your claws from available young men. No man wants to give up his freedom of choice because of a possessive female! It is difficult to say whether or not you'll be able to get this boy back into your good graces, but you will, perhaps, know how to handle your future romances.



Parents Present Problem . . .

Dear Editors,

I am eighteen years old, and I'm thinking seriously of being married soon. Bob, my future husband, and I are very much in love with each other. Unfortunately, however, his parents disapprove, because they have heard untrue rumors about me. I want them to like me, but I have a black mark against me. What can I do?

F. G.

Xenia, Ohio

Dear F. G.,

Put on your prettiest smile, strike your most charming pose and then, concentrate on tearing down the wrong impression that Bob's family have. It isn't easy when you have a strike against you, but if you are sincere, your effort will be recognized. It is only natural that his parents want him to marry a praiseworthy girl. Prove to them that you fit that description!

SORRY WE CANNOT ANSWER ALL YOUR LETTERS PERSONALLY. ONLY THOSE SELECTED TO APPEAR IN THIS COLUMN. ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO

ROMANCES OF THE WEST

SUITE 1404

350 FIFTH AVE.

NEW YORK 1, N.Y.

THE COWBOY

OR
THE

PLAYBOY?

A
TRUE
LIFE
STORY



WHO SHOULD I CHOOSE?
WHO COULD I CHOOSE?
I KNEW THAT BARRY
WAS THE MAN FOR ME...
WE HAD EVERYTHING IN
COMMON...THE SAME
INTERESTS, BACKGROUNDS,
AND CIRCLE OF FRIENDS!
BUT YET, WHY DID MY
HEART BEAT FASTER WHEN
I SAW TALL, RANGY REX
CHAPMAN... THE COWBOY
WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP!



6313

WHEN BARRY TALBOT TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS AND KISSED ME, ALL THE DOUBTS I HAD ABOUT OUR COMING MARRIAGE VANISHED! HANDSOME, A COLLEGE ATHLETE OF GOOD FAMILY, HE SEEMED THE IDEAL MATE FOR A WEALTHY NEW YORK SOCIALITE SUCH AS I!



'BYE, IRMA DEAR, I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN TONIGHT!



I'LL BE READY, BARRY!



BUT WHEN HE WAS GONE THE DOUBTS CROWDED BACK! WOULD I BE HAPPY WITH BARRY? I WASN'T SURE! IN A SOCIETY SUCH AS OURS, DEDICATED TO SURFACE CHARM AND MANNERS, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT ONE'S CLOSEST ASSOCIATES REALLY WERE LIKE!



WILL YOU HAVE LUNCHEON NOW, MISS IRMA?

I...LUNCHEON? OH, JEPSON, YOU KNEW MY DAD BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'D SAY ABOUT MY COMING MARRIAGE TO BARRY TALBOT?

WELL, SINCE YOU ASK ME A QUESTION OF THAT KIND, MISS IRMA--I TAKE IT YOU'RE NOT SURE YOURSELF!



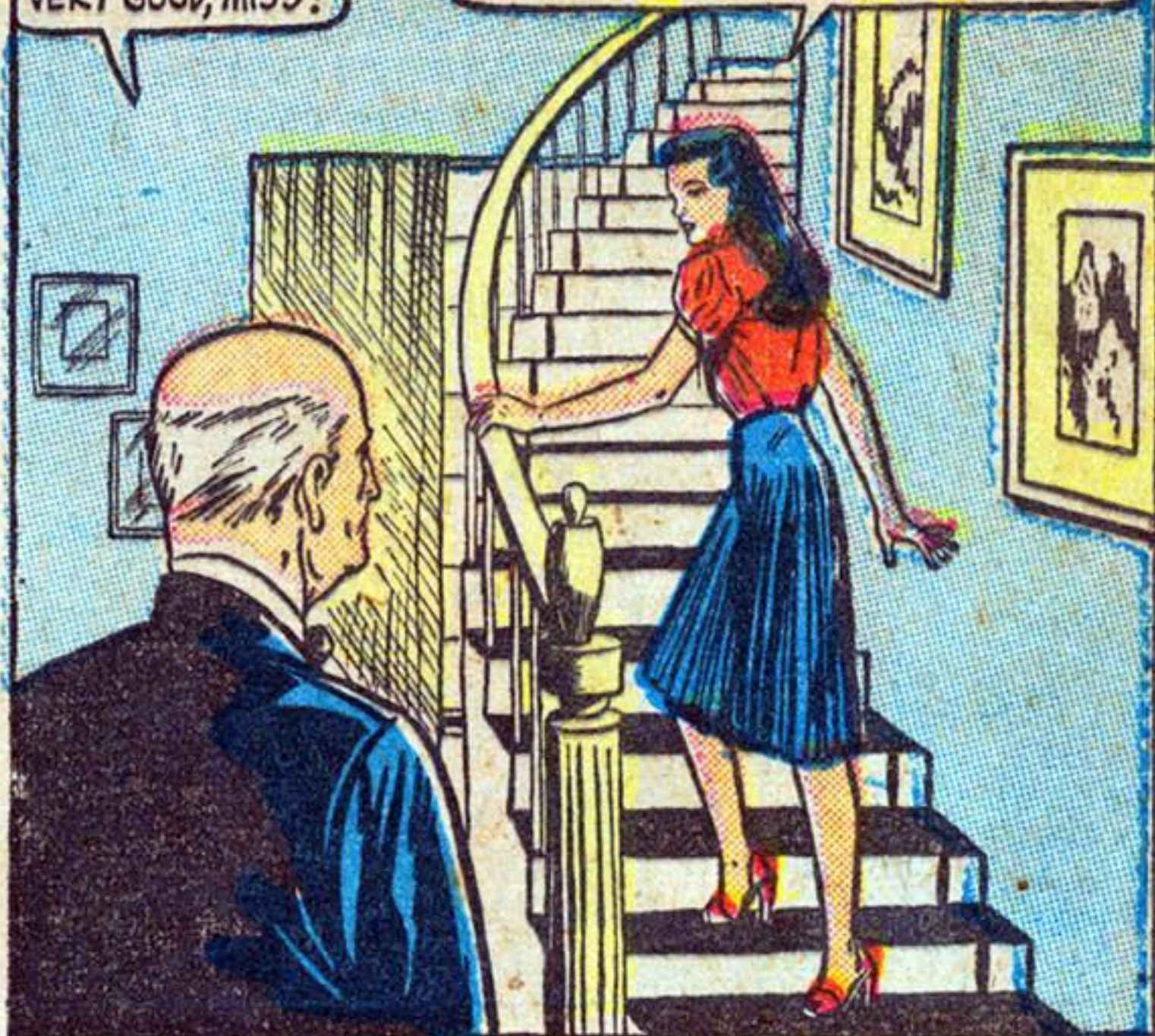
YOU EVEN REASON AS DAD DID! WHAT WOULD HE ADVISE, JEPSON...TELL ME!

I THINK HE'D ADVISE YOU TO GET OFF BY YOURSELF AND THINK THINGS OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! I THINK HE'D TELL YOU TO GO WEST, WHERE HE SPENT HIS YOUTH AND STARTED HIS FORTUNE...AND IN THE SOLITUDE OF THE OPEN RANGE, SEARCH YOUR HEART FOR THE TRUTH!



WELL PUT, JEPSON, AND SOUND, TOO! I'LL DO IT IMMEDIATELY! I'LL PACK SOME CLOTHES WHILE YOU PHONE THE AIRPORT! I'M GOING TO VERY GOOD, MISS!

WYOMING WHERE DAD LIVED AS A BOY!



I WAS READY IN A JIFFY! SUDDENLY IT SEEMED IMPERATIVE THAT I LEAVE AS SWIFTLY AS POSSIBLE!

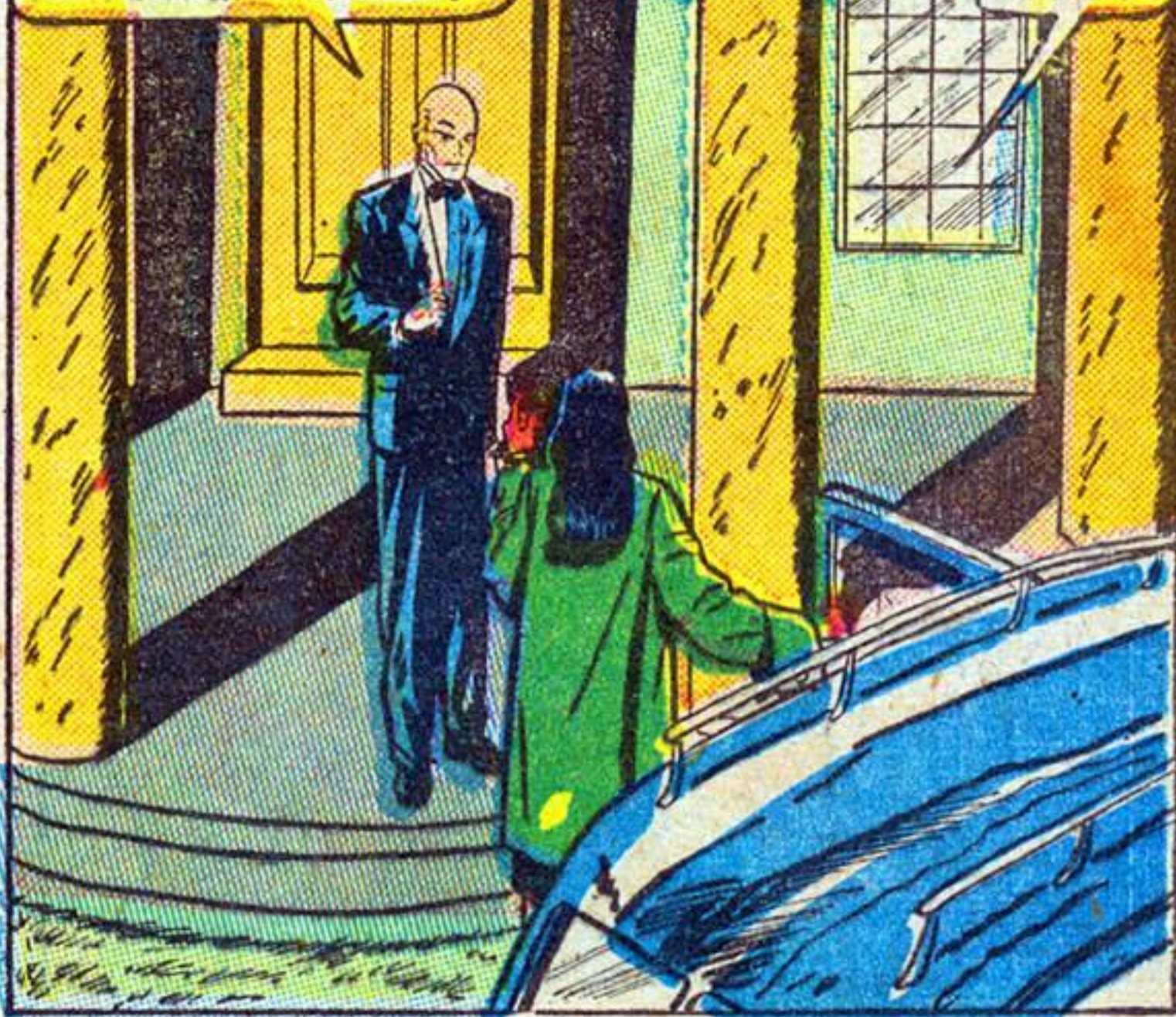
NOW DON'T FORGET, JEPSON-- I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW WHERE I'VE GONE! MAKE SOME EXCUSE TO MR. TALBOT WHEN HE CALLS TONIGHT!

YES, MISS! GEORGE WILL DRIVE YOU TO THE AIRFIELD! I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CALLING CLAY HART, AN OLD FRIEND OF YOUR FATHER'S...YOU WILL STAY AT HIS RANCH IN THE BLACK HILLS!



MISS IRMA, I HOPE YOU ENJOY YOURSELF AND...AND COME TO THE RIGHT DECISION!

THANK YOU, JEPSON! GOOD-BYE! TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE I'M GONE!



I CAUGHT THE PLANE WITH NOT MUCH TIME TO SPARE, AND THEN WE WERE IN THE AIR! SUDDENLY I WANTED TO GO BACK, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! THEN A VEIL OF SADNESS AND UNREST FELL OVER ME AND ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS...BARRY!



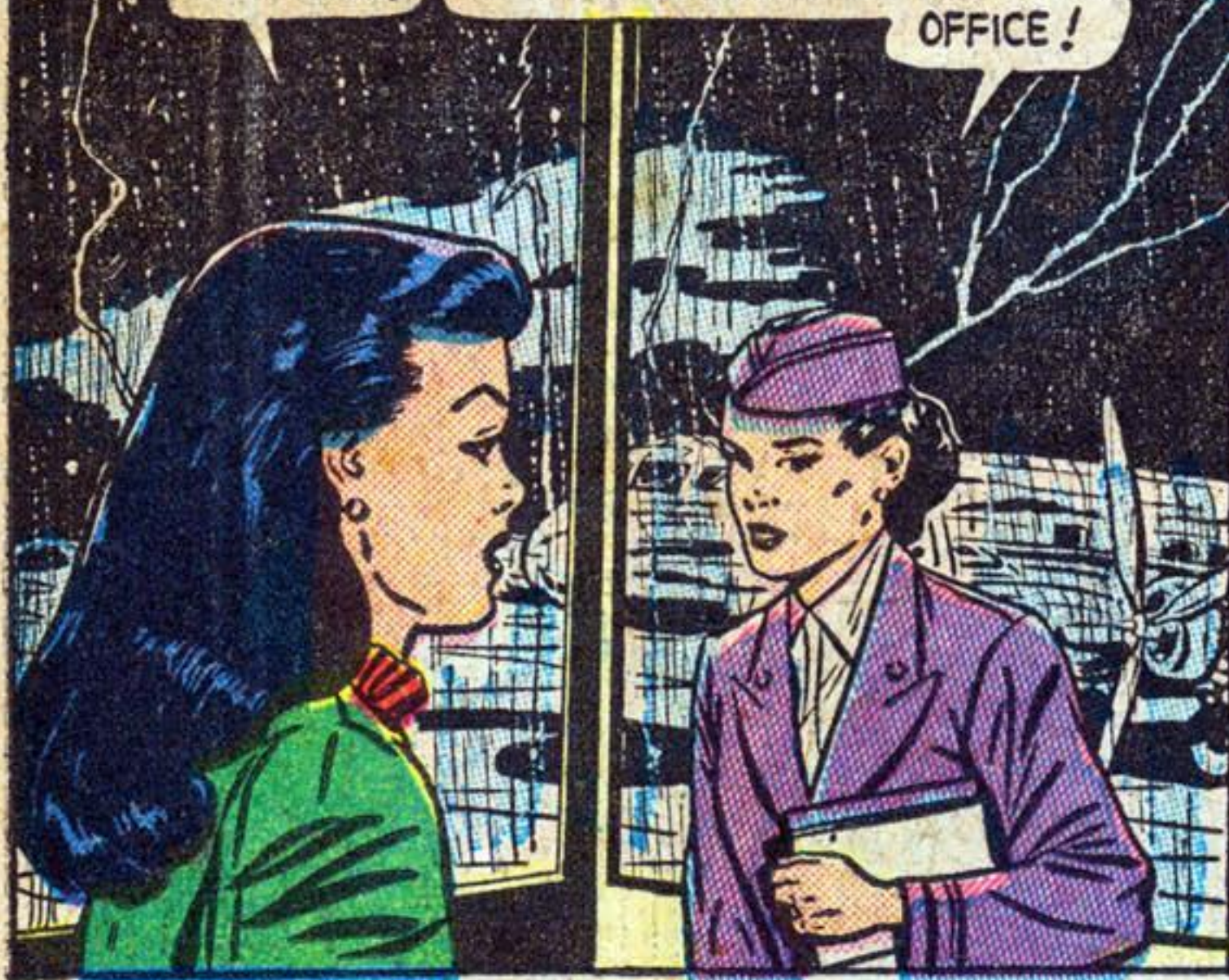
THE SKY BECAME AN ACCOMPANIMENT TO MY THOUGHTS, AND BY THE TIME WE LANDED RAIN WAS FALLING FROM THE DARK, SCURRYING CLOUDS!



I MADE UP MY MIND... THIS FLIGHT FROM REALITY WAS RIDICULOUS! I WOULD TAKE THE NEXT PLANE BACK HOME... BACK TO BARRY!

WHEN DOES THE NEXT PLANE TAKE OFF FOR NEW YORK?

I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS WEATHER WILL AFFECT THE SCHEDULE! YOU'D BETTER GET THAT INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE!



I HURRIED TO THE OFFICE! I WANTED TO GET BACK FAST--WAITING WAS A FRETFUL BURDEN--BUT THE INFORMATION I RECEIVED LEFT ME ANNOYED AND RESTLESS!

I'M SORRY, MISS, BUT WE'VE BEEN GROUNDED UNTIL THIS STORM LETS UP! IT'S RATHER BAD BETWEEN HERE AND NEW YORK!

OH DEAR!



EXCUSE ME, MA'AM, BUT IF YOU'RE MISS STANHOPE, I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU TO THE RANCH!

YES, I'M MISS STANHOPE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO THE RANCH... I'M FLYING BACK TO NEW YORK ON THE NEXT PLANE!



MISS, IF YOU TAKE MY ADVICE, YOU'LL GO OUT TO THE HART RANCH! THE REPORTS ARE THAT THIS WON'T LIFT FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS, AND YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE THERE! WE'LL NOTIFY YOU WHEN THE FLIGHT CAN GO!

I GUESS THAT WOULD BE SENSIBLE! ALL RIGHT, COWBOY, LET'S GO!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, MA'AM! THE NAME'S REX CHAPMAN, MA'AM!



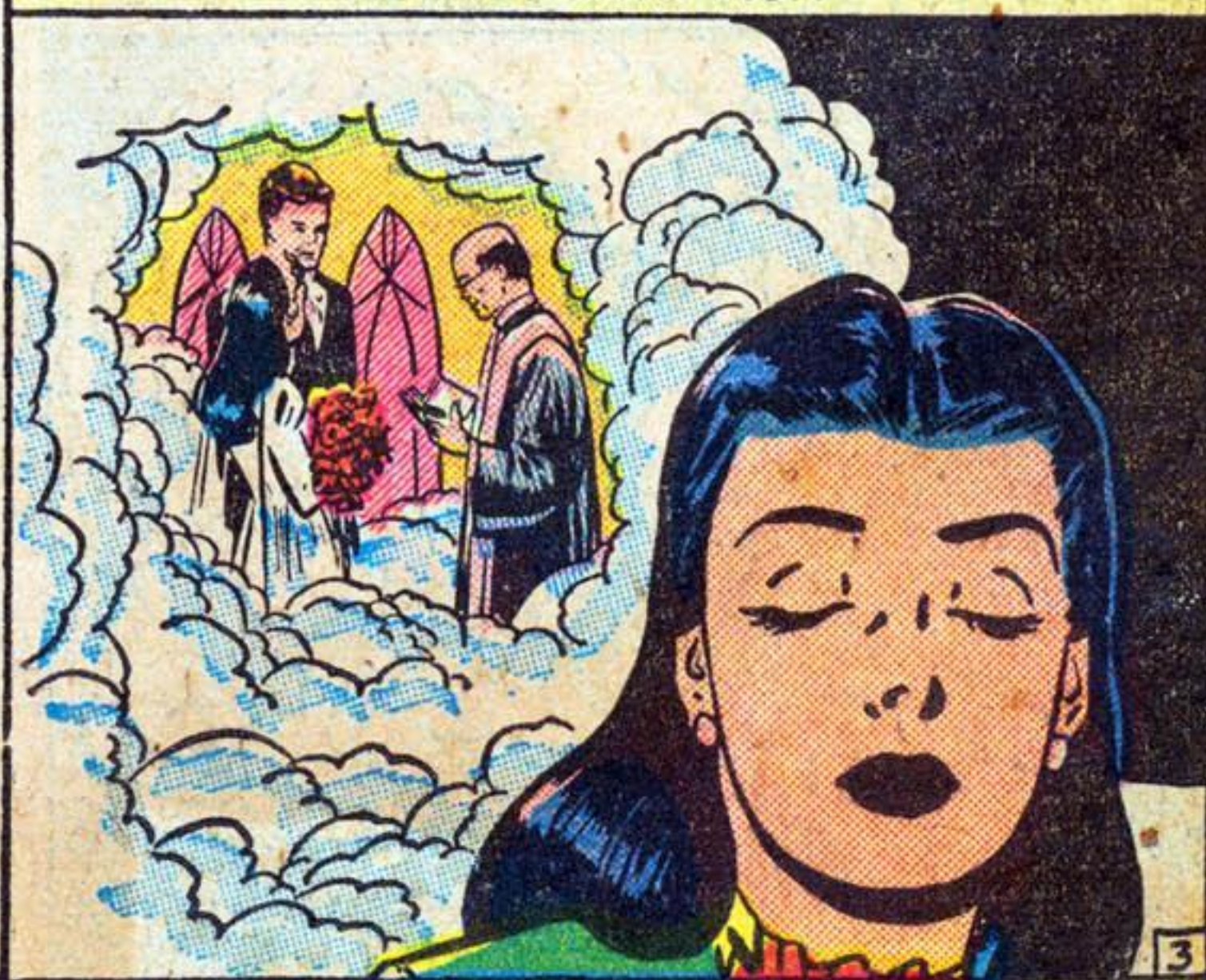
WE HURRIED TO THE RANCH STATION WAGON AND DROVE AWAY THROUGH THE RAIN!

WHAT KIND OF RANCH IS IT?

MODERN, MA'AM... A DUDE RANCH! YOU'LL LIKE IT!



THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF OUR CONVERSATION! I LAY BACK AND DOZED, AND DREAMED OF BARRY AS THE MILES SPUN AWAY! I WAS SURE NOW THAT I WANTED BARRY-- THAT MARRIAGE TO HIM WAS THE THING I WANTED MOST!



WELL, MA'AM, HERE WE ARE!

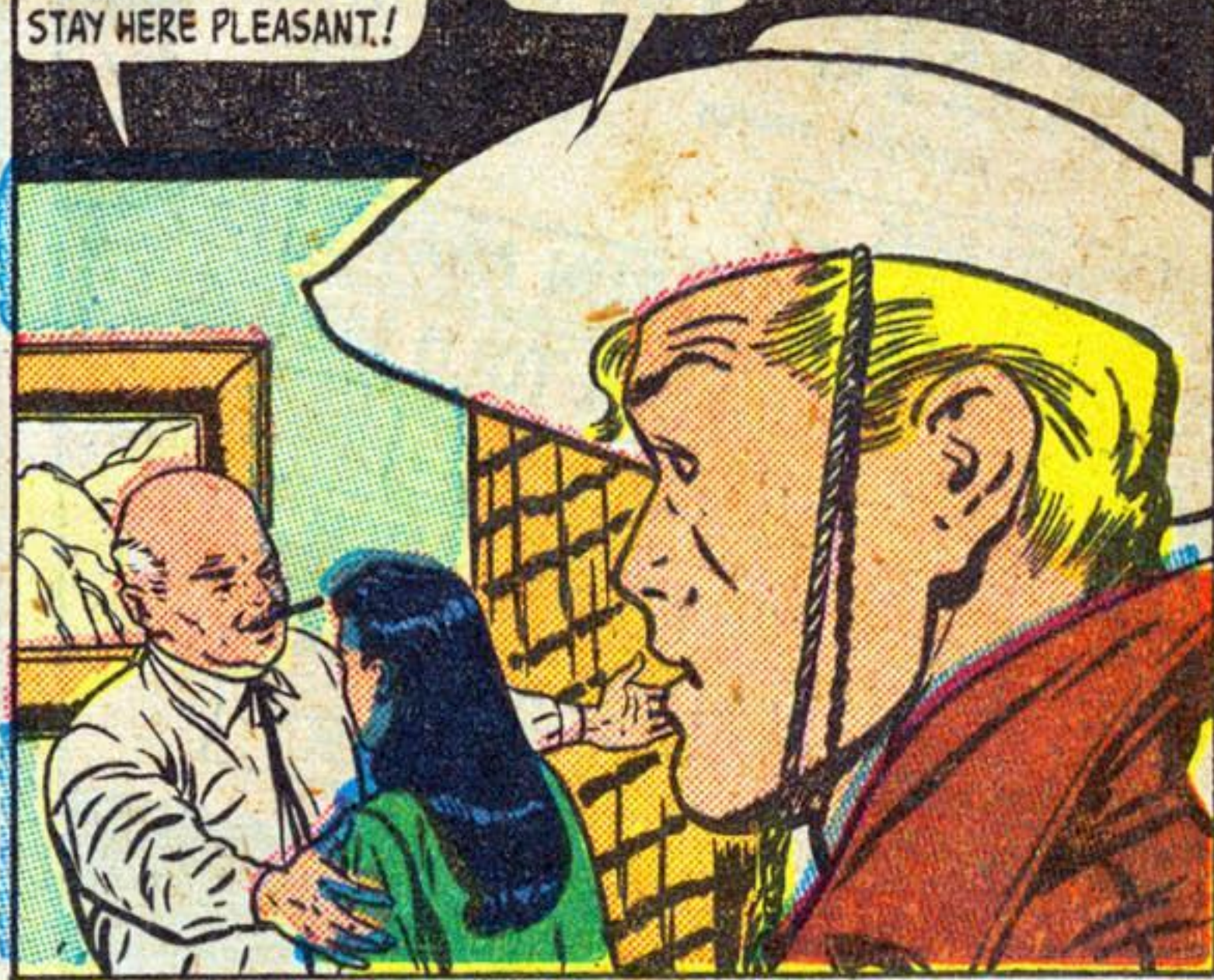
WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY I WAS SUCH AWFUL COMPANY... I MUST'VE DOZED OFF!



WELL, SO THIS IS BLAINE'S DAUGHTER! IRMA, I'M SURE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HERE! WE'LL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO MAKE YOUR STAY HERE PLEASANT!

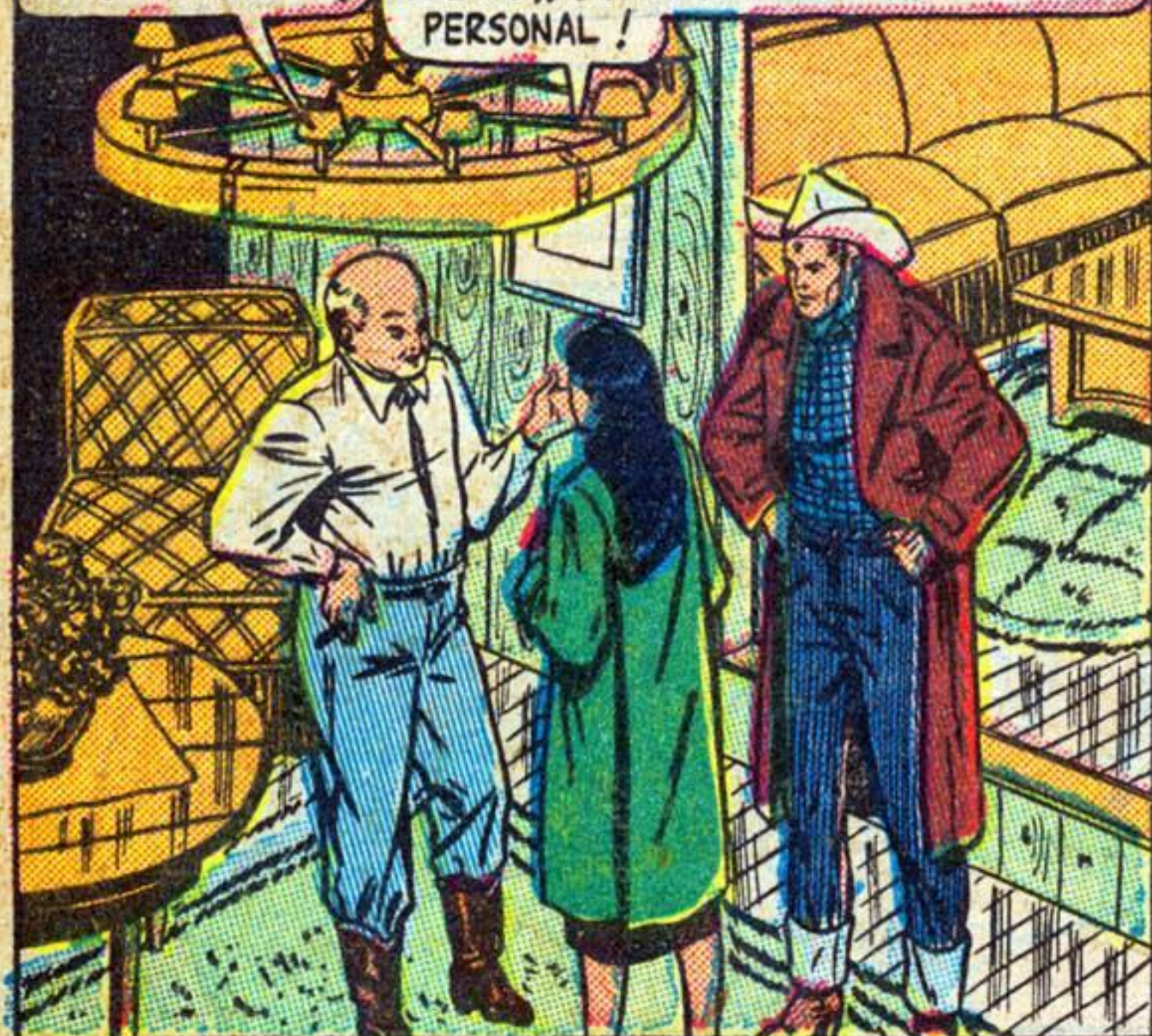
DAD'S TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU, CLAY, I FEEL AS THOUGH I KNOW YOU WELL!

SHE AIN'T GONNA STAY LONG, BOSS!



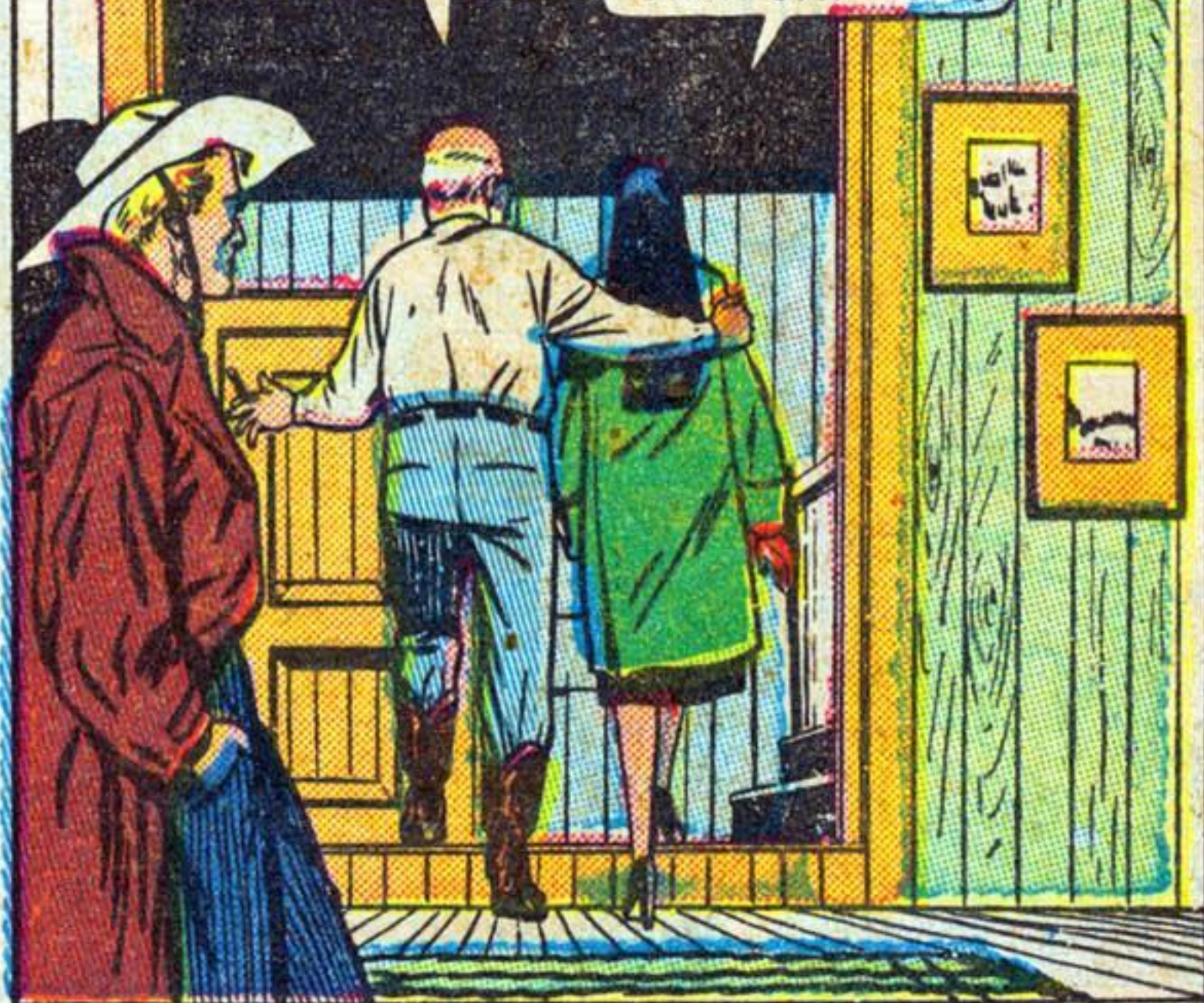
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT NOT STAYING LONG?

I MUST GET BACK AS SOON AS THE WEATHER CLEARS!! I HAVE A REASON... IT'S RATHER PERSONAL!



WELL NOW, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT TOMORROW! INEZ WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM AND FETCH YOU SOMETHING HOT TO EAT! YOU MUST BE TIRED!

I AM! GOOD NIGHT!



I WENT TO BED IN A HURRY AND DREAMED OF BARRY, AND IN MY DREAMS HE SEEMED VERY NEAR... AND DEAR!



THE MORNING DAWNED CLEAR AND BRIGHT, AND I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT WHEN A TELEGRAM ARRIVED!

I WISH I COULD PERSUADE YOU TO STAY, IRMA!

PERHAPS I'LL COME BACK AGAIN SOMETIME FOR A LONGER STAY!

TELEGRAM FOR MISS STANHOPE ...FROM NEW YORK!



QUICKLY I TORE IT OPEN AND MY HEART BOUNDED AS I SAW THE SIGNATURE!

PACIFIC TELEGRAM

McLIARSE TNOVEN

TIME: 103
2061747

DARLING...

WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?

YOUR CHAUFFEUR TOLD ME

WHERE YOU HAD GONE.

WAIT FOR ME AT RANCH.

SHALL JOIN YOU IN A WEEK.

BARRY

CLAY, I'VE DECIDED TO STAY AFTER ALL!

WELL NOW, CHILD, THAT'S MIGHTY GOOD NEWS! THE DAY'S YOUNG...WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

MAYBE MISS STANHOPE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RANCH! I'LL SADDLE A COUPLE OF HORSES!

THE DAYS PASSED DELIGHTFULLY! REX APPOINTED HIMSELF MY OFFICIAL GUARDIAN AND TOGETHER WE ROAMED THE GREAT RANGE THAT CONSTITUTED THE HART HOLDINGS!

OH, REX, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

YES! BEAUTIFUL!

LET'S RIDE TO THAT LITTLE LAKE TO THE NORTH!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, MA'AM! WATCH YOUR STEP NOW!

LOOK OUT, IRMA!

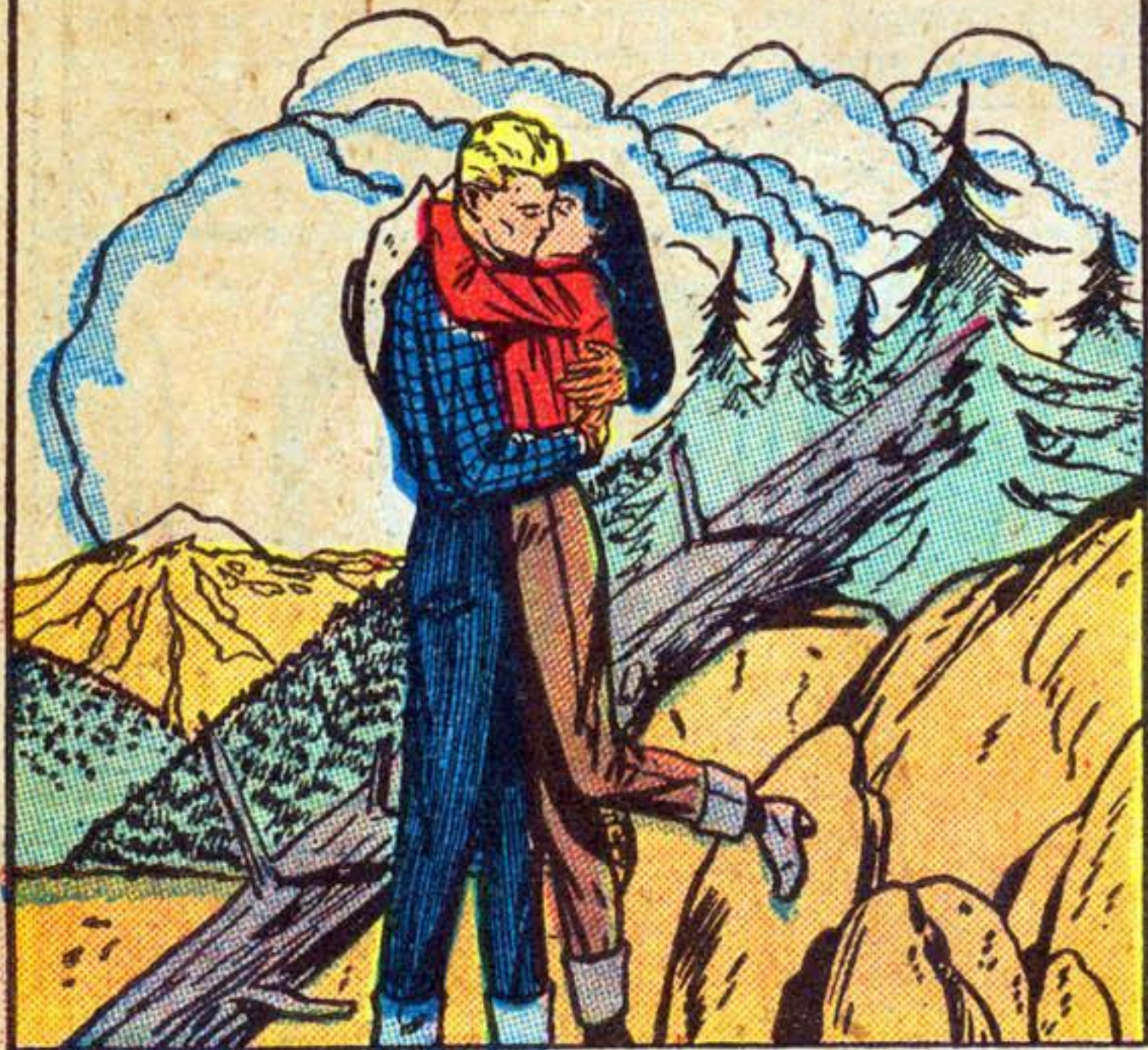
OOOPS!

SUDDENLY I WAS IN REX'S ARMS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME, BUT IN THAT MOMENT I WANTED TO BE IN HIS ARMS! AND WHEN I LOOKED UP INTO HIS CLEAN-CUT, MASCULINE FACE, I WANTED HIM TO KISS ME....!

I GUESS I TRIPPED ... REX!

YES, I RECKON SO!

AND HE DID!



THEN I CAME TO MY SENSES AND PUSHED AWAY FROM HIM! WHAT WAS I DOING...WHAT COULD I BE THINKING OF TO LET THIS MAN...THIS STRANGER...KISS ME?

NO, PLEASE, REX...WE MUSTN'T!

WHY NOT? IRMA, I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU! IT MAY SOUND SILLY TO YOU BUT IT'S THE TRUTH! I LOVE YOU... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



I'M...ENGAGED TO MARRY ANOTHER MAN...A MAN WHO'S JOINING ME HERE TOMORROW...THE MAN I...LOVE! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT! YOU MUST FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE, AND PLEASE...TAKE ME BACK TO THE RANCH NOW! IT WILL BE DARK SOON!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, IRMA, BUT I CAN'T FORGET WHAT'S HAPPENED! I NEVER WILL...BECAUSE I LOVE YOU...IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT!



WE RODE BACK TO THE RANCH WITH SCARCELY A WORD PASSING BETWEEN US! I WAS UPSET...NOT BECAUSE REX HAD KISSED ME, BUT BECAUSE OF THE EMOTIONAL EFFECT THE OCCURRENCE HAD HAD ON ME!

I'M SORRY, IRMA, IF I'VE UPSET YOU!

PLEASE, REX, LET'S NOT SPEAK OF IT!



I WENT TO MY ROOM AND TO BED, AND THE DREAMS CAME...QUEER DREAMS IN WHICH REX SOMEHOW TOOK THE PLACE OF BARRY!



THE NEXT MORNING BARRY ARRIVED!

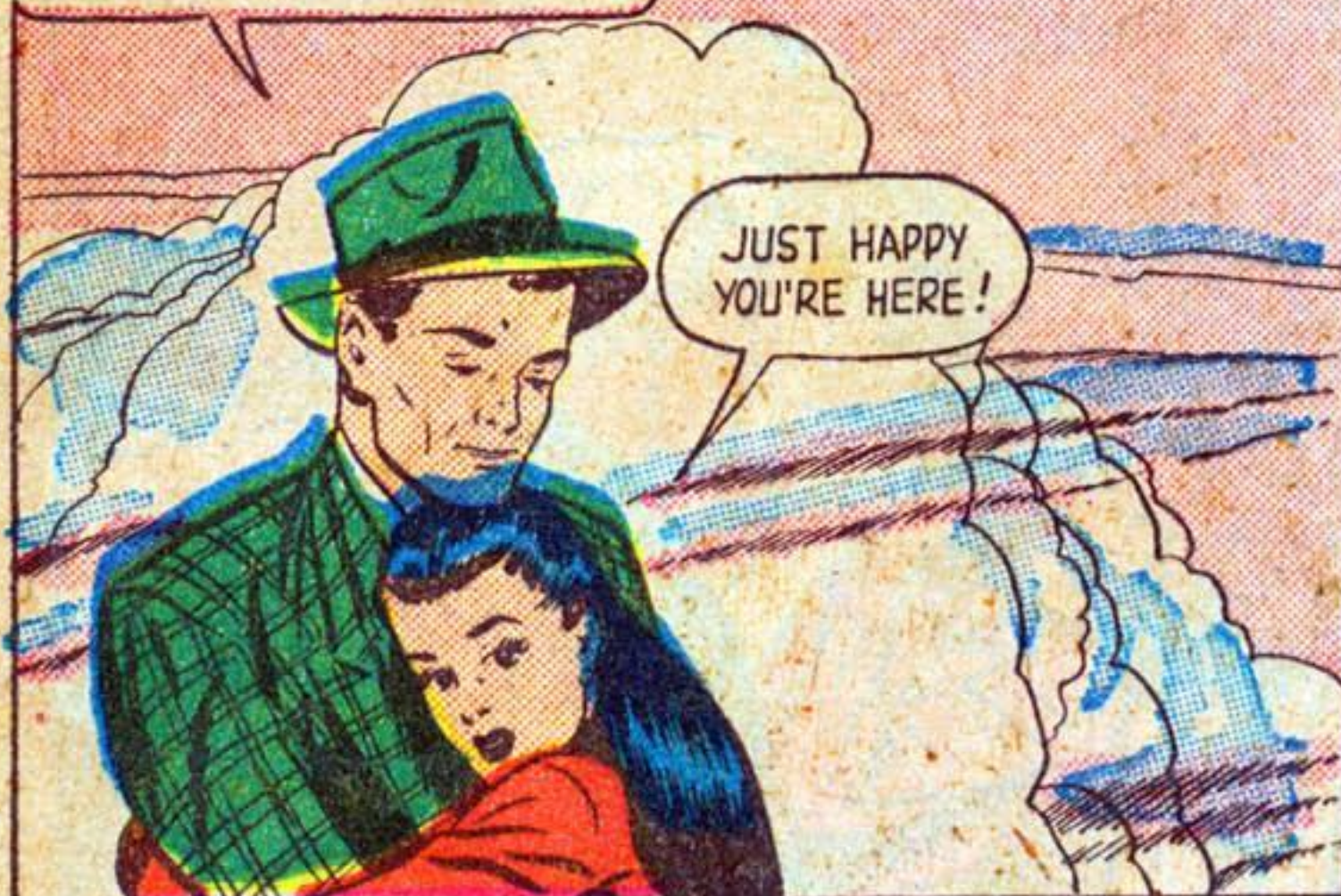
BARRY!

IRMA DARLING!



BARRY'S ARMS WENT AROUND ME AND SUDDENLY I GIGGLED! THE INCIDENT WITH REX BECAME A SORT OF COMEDY SEQUENCE IN THAT MOMENT! HOW COULD A GIRL IN MY POSITION HAVE ANY EMOTIONAL ENTANGLEMENT WITH A CRUDE, UNEDUCATED COWBOY... ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE WAS TO MARRY A MAN OF HER OWN SOCIAL STANDING... A MAN LIKE BARRY? IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE... AND COMICAL! POOR, LOVESICK COWBOY!

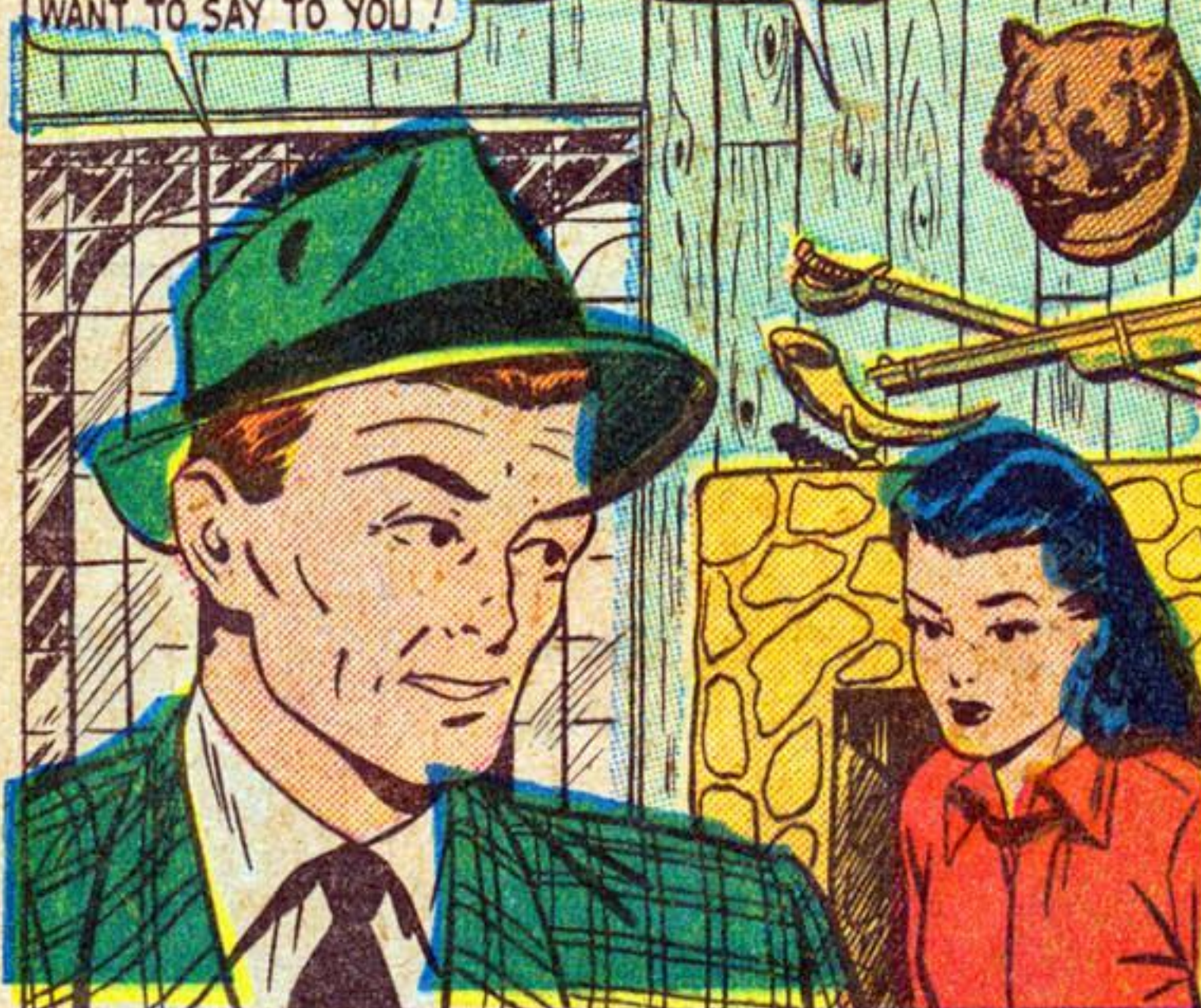
WHAT ARE YOU GIGGLING FOR?



JUST HAPPY YOU'RE HERE!

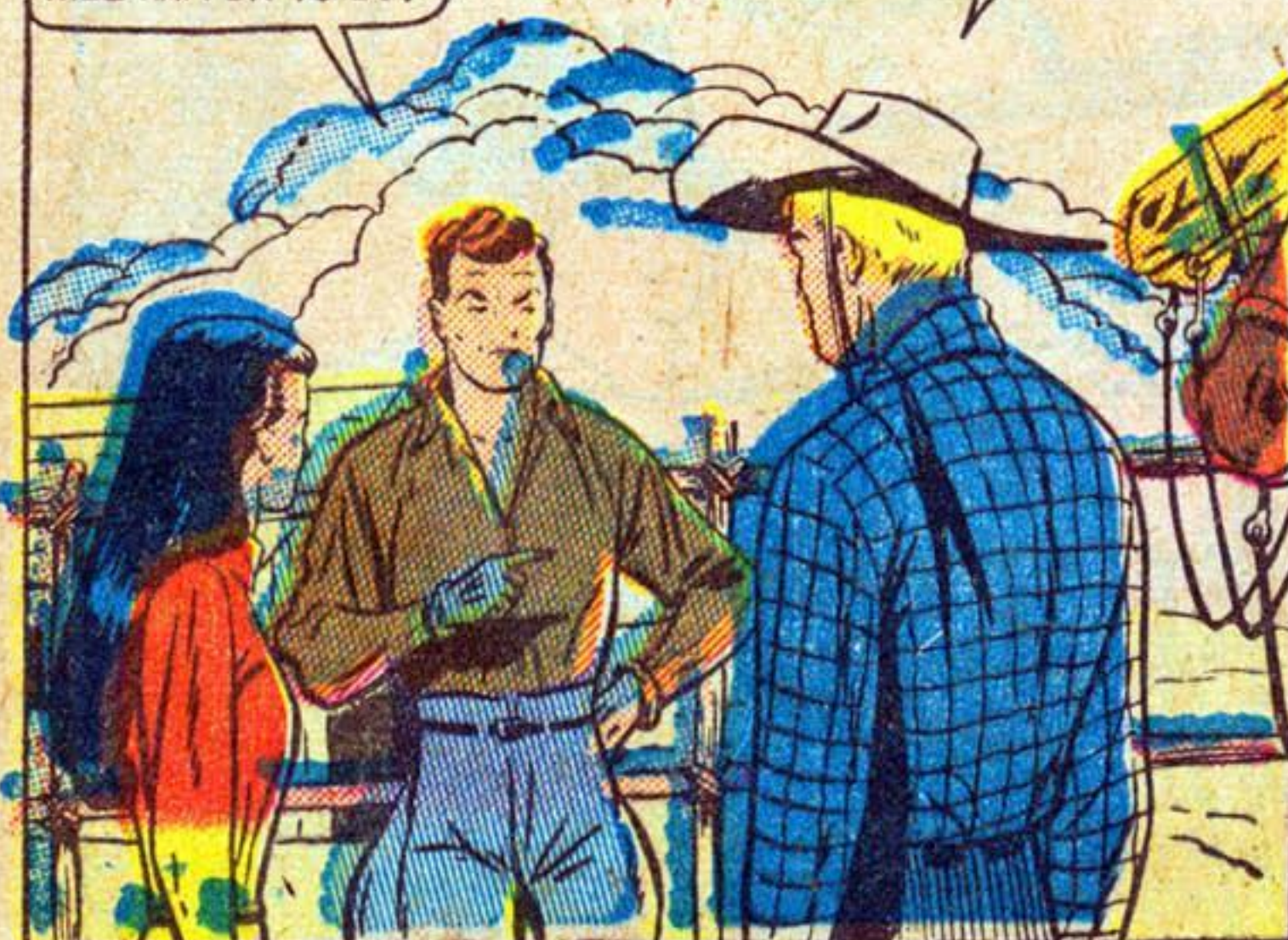
WAIT HERE FOR ME, DEAR! I'LL BE DOWN AS SOON AS I CHANGE, AND WE'LL RIDE! I HAVE SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY TO YOU!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR! THERE'S SOME BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY TO SEE!



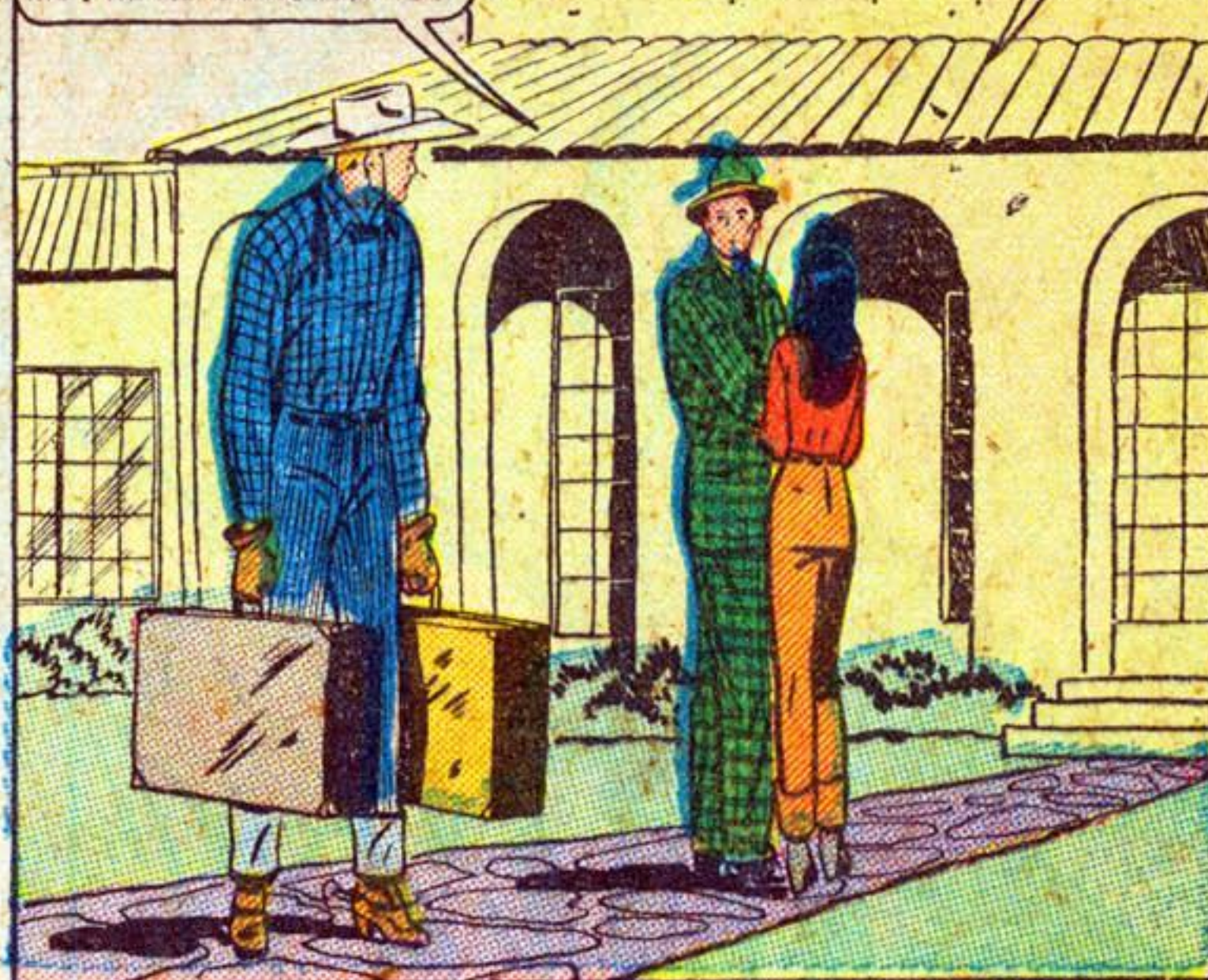
ALL READY, DEAR! SAY, WHAT ARE THE THREE HORSES FOR, FELLOW? WE DON'T WANT YOU ALONG... NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO US!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, MISTER, BUT THE HILLS ARE DRY THIS TIME OF YEAR AND I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO IRMA... ER... MISS STANHOPE!



YOU, FELLOW, TAKE THOSE SUITCASES TO MY ROOM... AND SADDLE UP HORSES FOR MISS STANHOPE AND ME! WE'RE GOING RIDING!

CAN'T WAIT TO GET ME ALONE SO YOU CAN QUESTION ME ABOUT MY RUNNING AWAY, CAN YOU, BARRY? IT WAS ONLY A WHIM, DEAR, REALLY!



REX BROUGHT THE HORSES WHILE I WAITED! I DECIDED THEN TO SPEAK TO HIM AND MAKE OUR POSITIONS CLEAR!

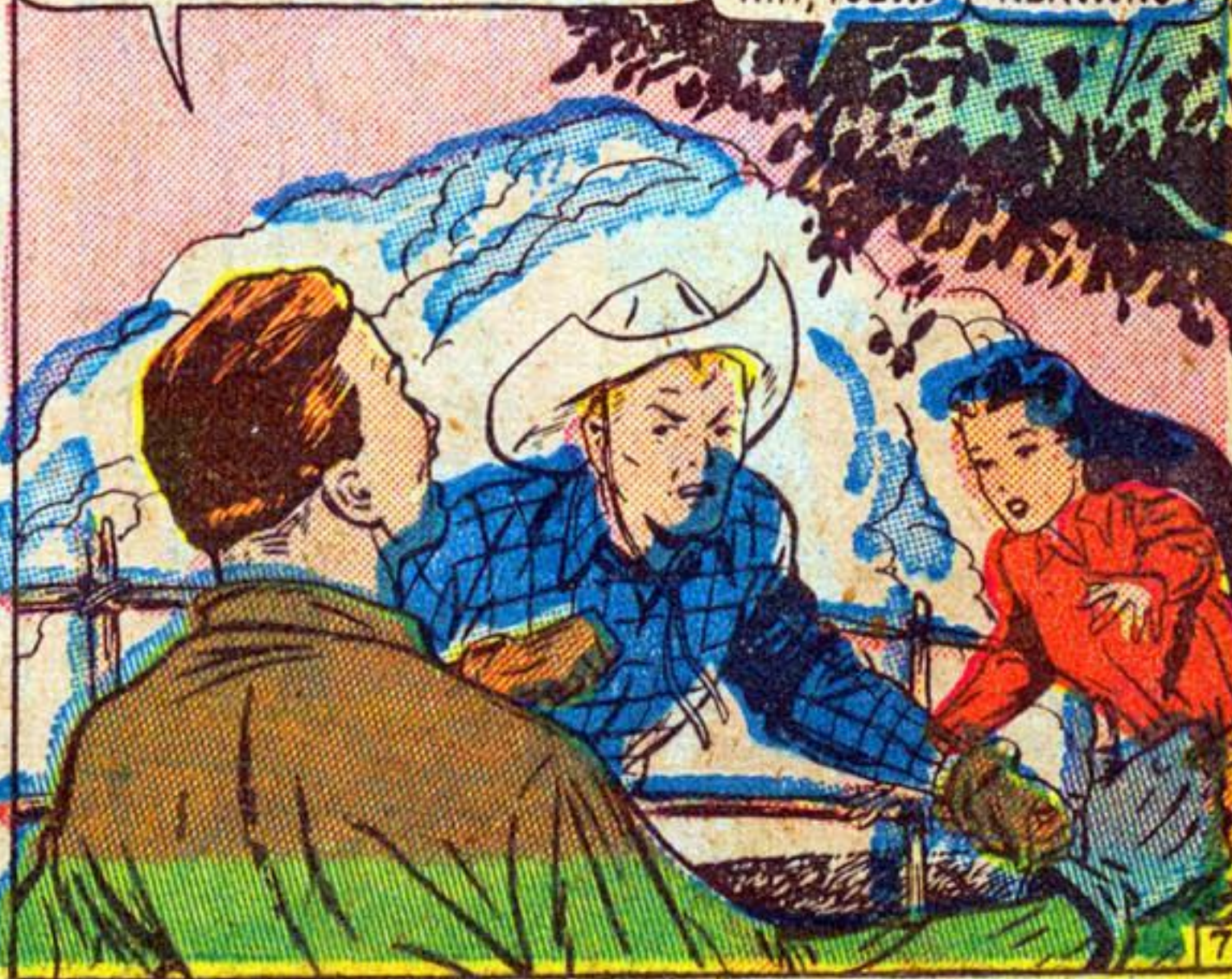
REX, LET'S UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER! WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY WAS AN ACCIDENT! WHY, THE IDEA OF ME HAVING ANY ROMANTIC ENTANGLEMENTS WITH A... AN IGNORANT HIRED HAND IS SHEER COMEDY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

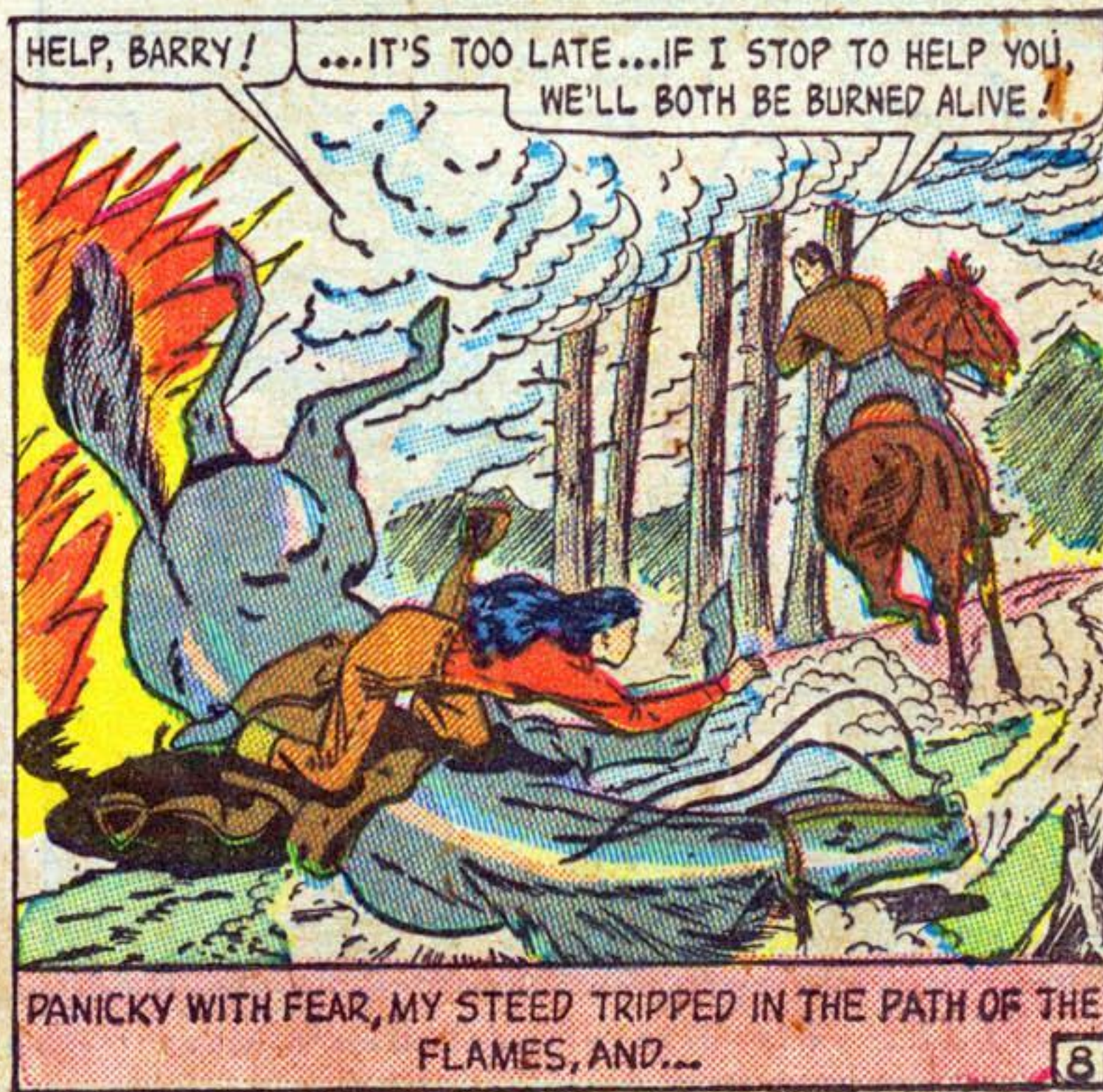
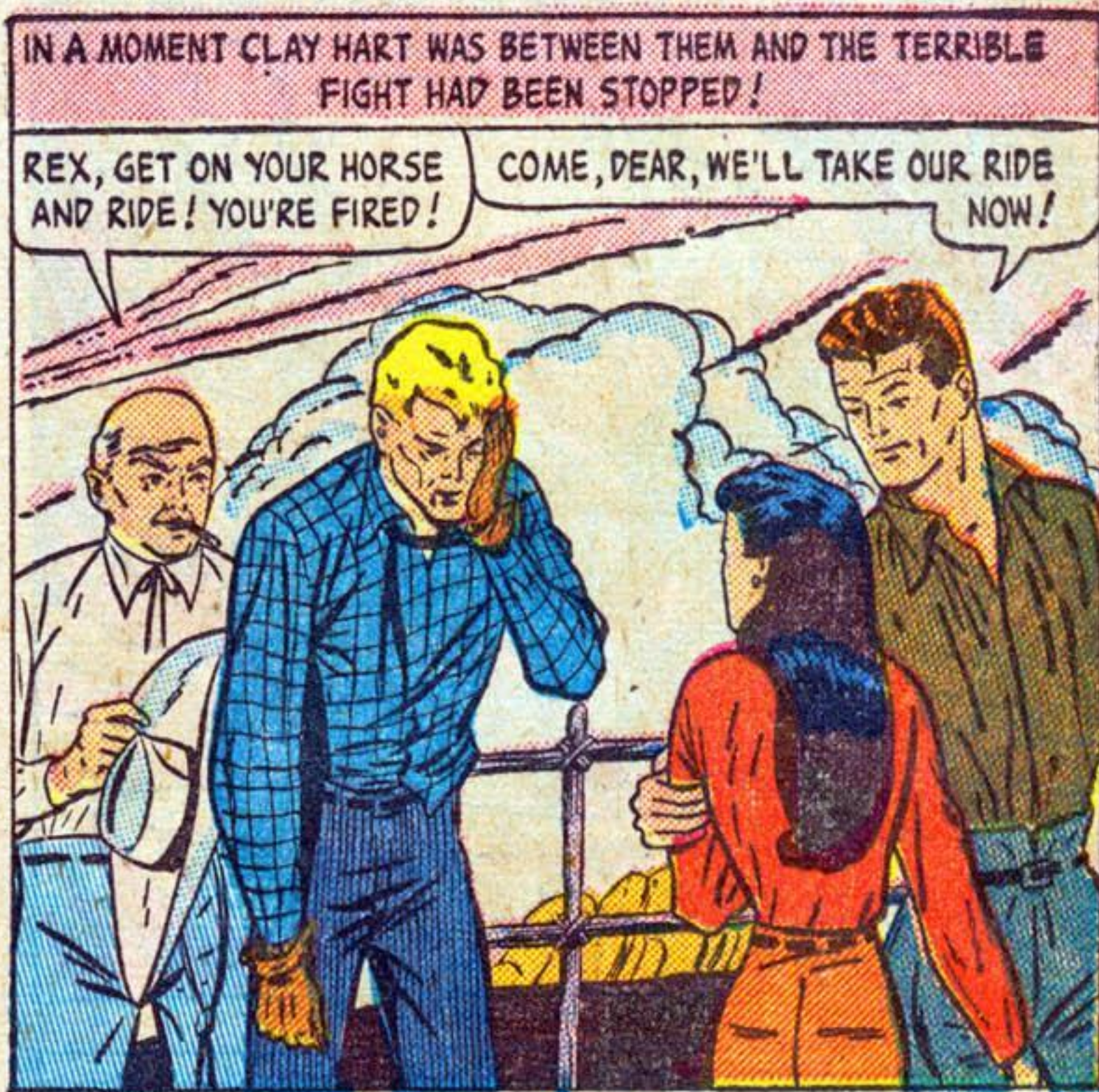
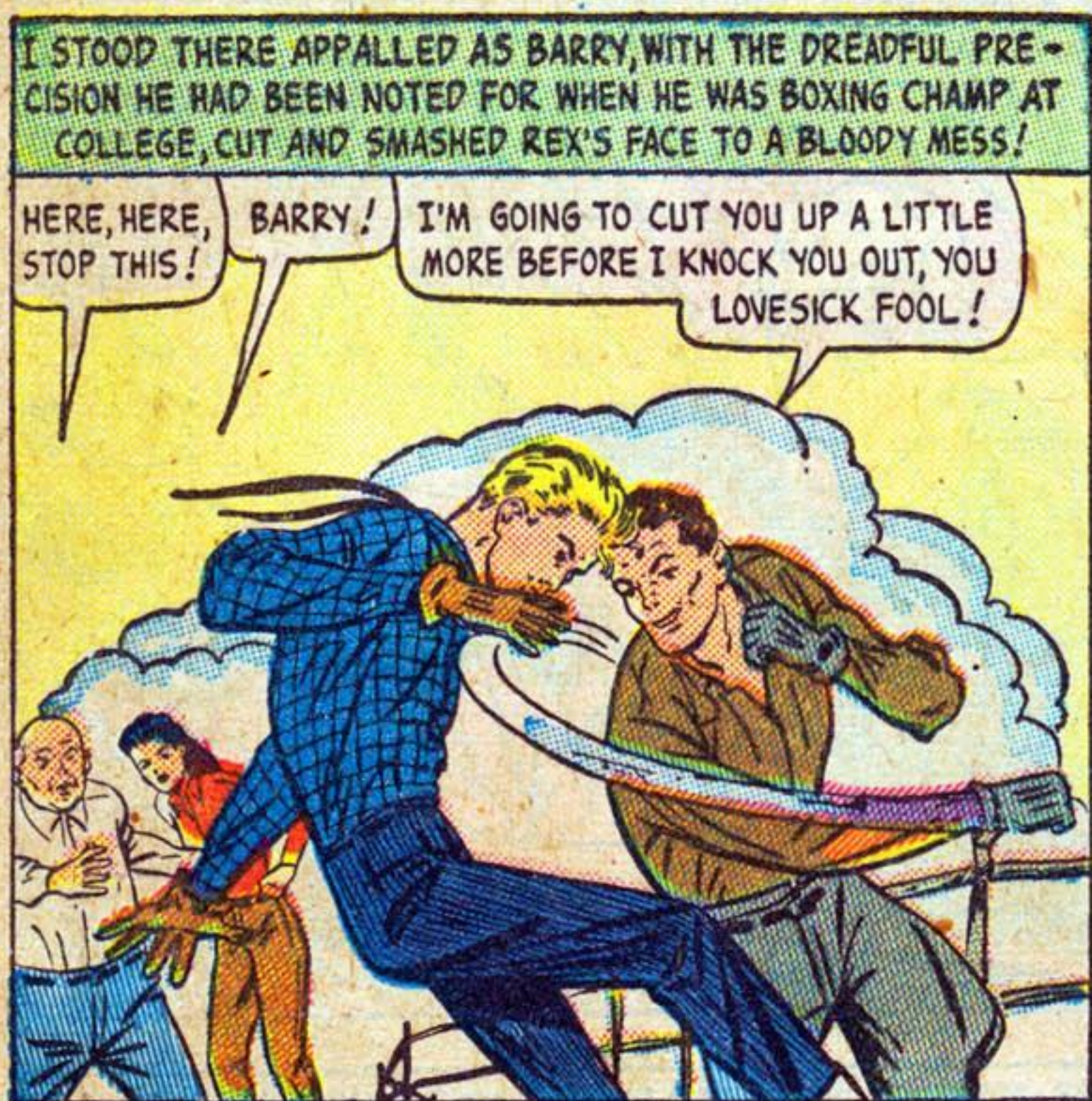
I'M HIRED, YES, BUT IT ISN'T A SIN TO WORK FOR A LIVING! AS TO SCHOOLING--NO, I'M NOT A COLLEGE MAN, BUT I AM A MAN, AND TRYING TO HURT ME WON'T CHANGE MY FEELINGS!

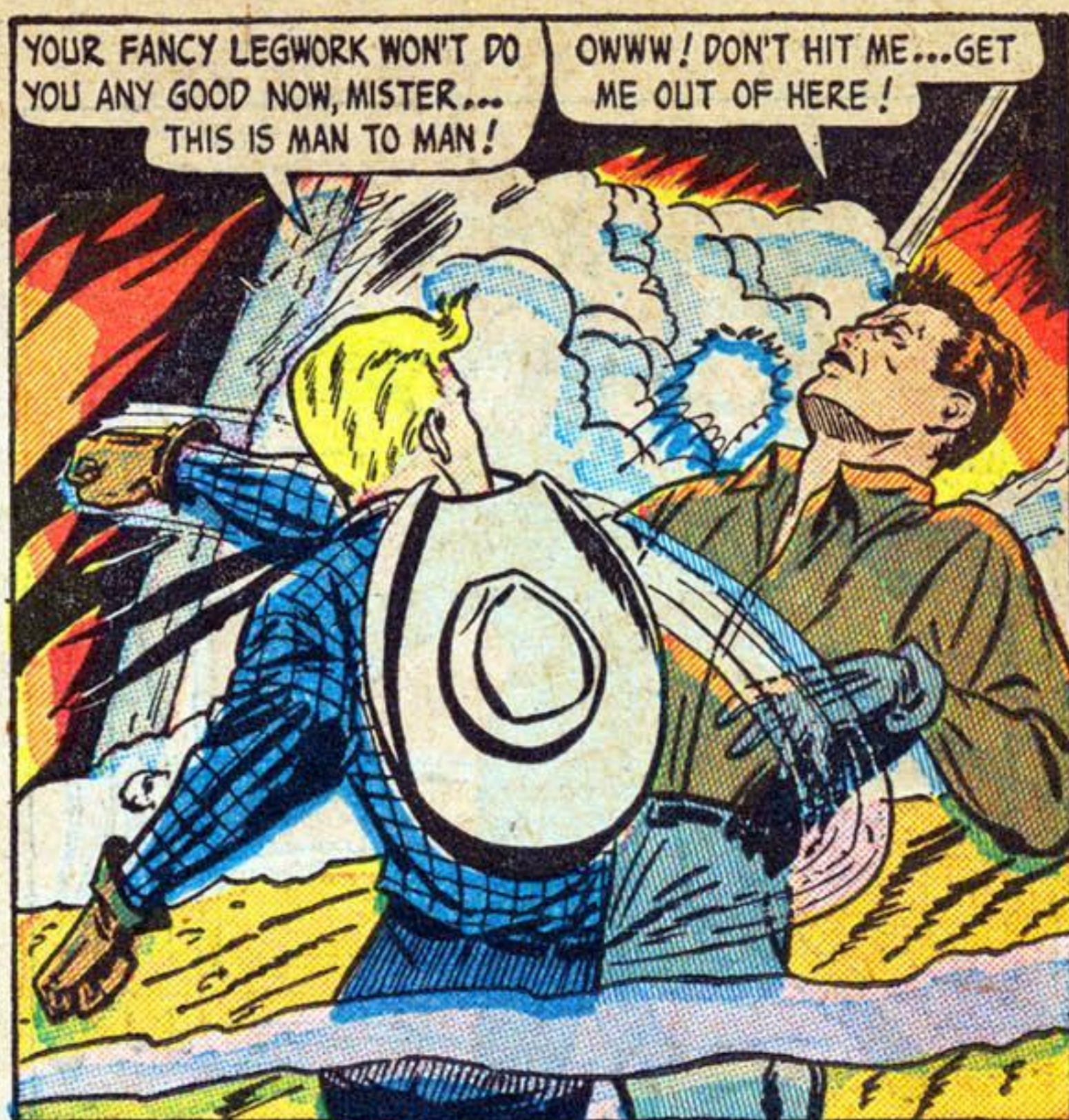


WELL, WELL, THIS BUMPKIN IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, IRMA! LOOK AT HIM! HO! HO! I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM FALSE ENCOURAGEMENT, DEAR... LET HIM KISS YOU! HA! HA! WAIT'LL THE CROWD BACK HOME HEARS ABOUT THIS! HAW-HAW-HAW!

WHY, YOU... REX... NO!







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ALL DIFFERENT
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Box 44, Times Square Station, N.Y. 18, N.Y.

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Only 5¢ to Approval Buyers.
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HIGHLAND Box 316 Sierra Madre, Calif.

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V. M. TIPPETT
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SEMINOLE STAMP CO.
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SEND NO MONEY. Pay Postman on delivery plus 20% Fed. Tax and postage on Money Back Guarantee.
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200 Different Stamps ONLY 3¢

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ROMANCES OF THE WEST



...IT'S THE WHITE ROAD WESTWARD IS THE ROAD I
MUST TREAD
TO THE GREEN GRASS, THE COOL GRASS, AND REST
FOR HEART AND HEAD,
TO THE VIOLETS AND THE WARM HEARTS AND THE
THRUSHES' SONG
IN THE FINE LAND, THE WEST LAND, THE LAND WHERE
I BELONG.

JOHN MASEFIELD

I WAS IN HIS ARMS AGAIN! WE WERE DRAWN TOGETHER AS IF IT WERE DESTINED TO BE THAT WAY! IT WAS AS IT SHOULD BE...AND I WAS HAPPY!



A
TRUE
LIFE
STORY

HE CAME TO ME FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...AND THERE WAS A WILDNESS ABOUT HIM, AND A SADNESS TOO! HE WAS LIKE NO MAN I HAD EVER KNOWN...AND I KNOW THERE'D NEVER BE ANOTHER LIKE ...

THE STRANGER WITH HATE IN HIS HEART!

6404

FATHER WAS A BIG MAN WITH A BIG HEART...AND HE NEVER FORGOT A FRIEND! THAT'S HOW IT BEGAN...HOW I FOUND LOVE THAT WAS BORN OF HATE AND TEARS ...A LOVE THAT WAS THE STRANGEST THAT COULD COME TO A GIRL OF THE WEST!

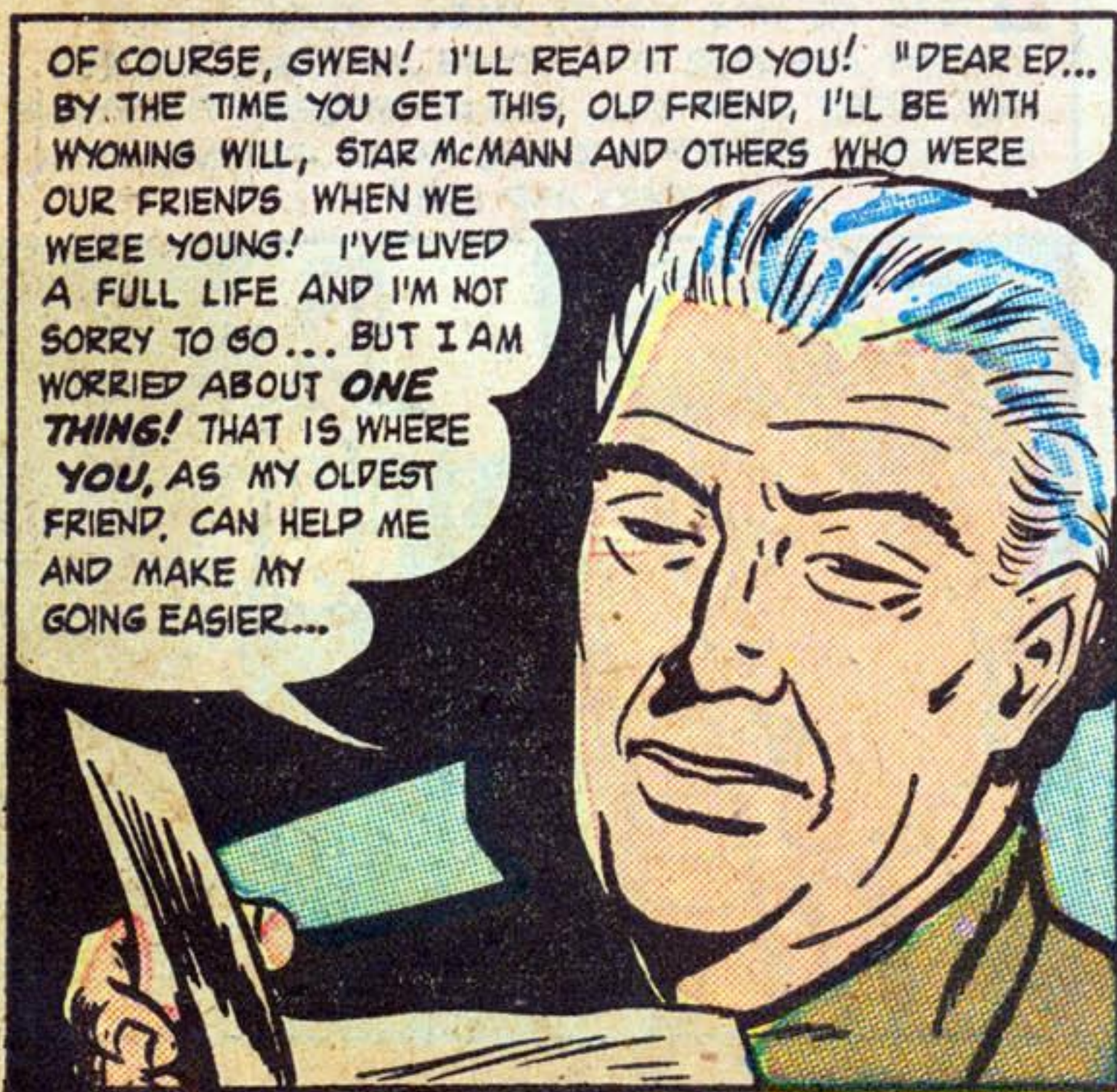


OLD JIM TOBIN, MY PARTNER WHEN HE AND I WERE TRYING TO STRIKE IT RICH ON THE PANHANDLE, IS GONE! THIS LETTER, GWEN, WAS MAILED TO ME AFTER HE DIED!

WHAT DID HE SAY, DAD? CAN YOU TELL ME?



OF COURSE, GWEN! I'LL READ IT TO YOU! "DEAR ED... BY THE TIME YOU GET THIS, OLD FRIEND, I'LL BE WITH WYOMING WILL, STAR McMANN AND OTHERS WHO WERE OUR FRIENDS WHEN WE WERE YOUNG! I'VE LIVED A FULL LIFE AND I'M NOT SORRY TO GO... BUT I AM WORRIED ABOUT **ONE THING!** THAT IS WHERE **YOU**, AS MY OLDEST FRIEND, CAN HELP ME AND MAKE MY GOING EASIER...



"AS YOU REMEMBER, ED, I GAVE UP THE WEST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AND CAME TO CHICAGO! BUT MY LUCK WASN'T GOOD HERE EITHER! I NEVER COULD HIT IT RIGHT, SO I LIVED A POOR LIFE IN THE SLUMS OF THE CITY...

JIM, JUNIOR MISSED SCHOOL AGAIN TODAY!

WHAT! MARTHA, CAN'T YOU KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT BOY?



"YOU SEE, I WAS MARRIED AND MARTHA AND I HAD ONE CHILD, MY SON, JIM JUNIOR! BUT YOUNG JIM WAS BAD, ED! HE WAS IN AND OUT OF SCRAPS ALWAYS!"

DARLING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM! HE'S MOODY... QUIET! BUT HE'S ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE!

IT'S THIS NEIGHBORHOOD... THE LIFE WE LIVE! THE BOY HASN'T GOT A CHANCE! IF HE HAD THE BOYHOOD I DID... OUT WEST... SPACE... FRESH AIR... HE COULD BE ALL RIGHT!



"I LOST MARTHA WHEN JIM JUNIOR WAS TEN! BRINGING UP THE BOY WAS HARDER THAN EVER! I HAD NO TIME TO LOOK AFTER HIM, AND HE WAS ON HIS OWN!"

MR. TOBIN... IT'S JIM! (PUFF!) THE COPS ARRESTED HIM FOR STEALING FRUIT FROM THE STORE! (PUFF!)

STEALING? BUT HE'S ONLY A KID! HOW COULD HE?



"YOUNG JIM WAS SENT TO REFORM SCHOOL! IT WAS THROUGH THE MAN IN CHARGE THAT I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT MY OWN SON!"

YOU SEE, MR. TOBIN, YOUR SON RESENTS THE FACT THAT HE'S POOR! HE THINKS THE WHOLE WORLD IS AGAINST HIM BECAUSE OF THAT! HE RESENTS AUTHORITY... THINKS EVERYBODY IS HIS ENEMY! HE THINKS THE WORLD BELONGS ONLY TO THE TOUGH... THE BELLIGERENT! HE'S TRYING TO PROVE HIMSELF TOUGHER AND STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE!



"HE CAME OUT OF REFORM SCHOOL MORE BITTER THAN EVER! NOW HE'S TWENTY YEARS OLD, ED... A GROWN MAN... BUT A LOST ONE! THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION FOR HIM... **THE WEST!** MAYBE THERE HE WILL LEARN KINDNESS AND TENDERNESS! MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE HIM AND MAKE A MAN OF HIM!"

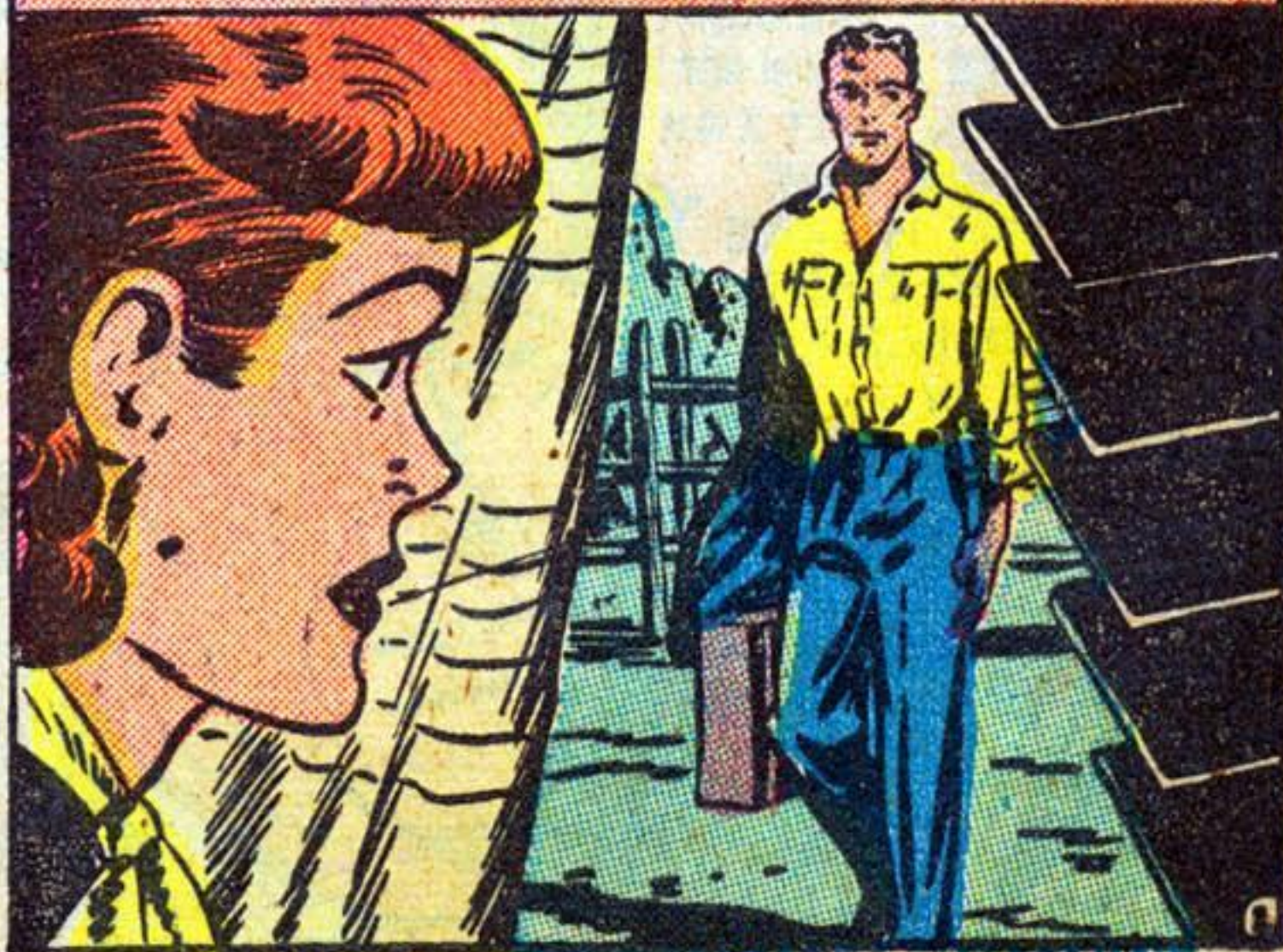


"ED, I KNOW THAT YOU WON'T DENY THIS REQUEST FROM YOUR OLD FRIEND! I'VE PERSUADED HIM TO GO OUT AND SEE YOU AFTER I DIE! DO WHAT YOU CAN, ED, PLEASE! THIS WILL BE THE BEST MEMORIAL TO YOUR OLD SOURDOUGH PARTNER, JIM TOBIN!"

DAD...THERE'S SOMEONE COMING THROUGH THE GATE!



THERE HE WAS, MOODY, DARK... RESENTMENT WRITTEN ALL OVER HIM! YOUNG JIM TOBIN, THE BOY WHO HATED EVERYONE, WHO CONSIDERED THE WORLD HIS ENEMY, WALKED ONTO OUR RANCH AND INTO MY HEART AND LIFE!



THE MOMENT I SAW HIM, I SENSED TROUBLE! HE WAS SO UNLIKE ANYONE I HAD EVER KNOWN! BUT... HE WAS SO ATTRACTIVE! AND HIS SPEECH WAS SO STRANGE!

GET THIS STRAIGHT.... MY OLD MAN **TOLD** ME TO COME HERE! SAY THE WORD AND I'LL BLOW THIS DUMP!

YOU'RE WELCOME HERE, SON! YOUR DAD WAS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE-- HE DID ME MANY A GOOD TURN AND I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIM AND YOU!



OH, YEAH? **FAVORS**, HUH? WELL I DON'T WANT FAVORS FROM **ANYBODY**! I CAME 'CAUSE THE OLD MAN WANTED ME TO! OKAY! I CAME... BUT I AIN'T STAYIN'!

ER... YOU'LL BE DOING US A FAVOR, JIM! WE NEED AN EXTRA HAND AND YOU CAME JUST IN TIME! WILL YOU HELP US OUT?



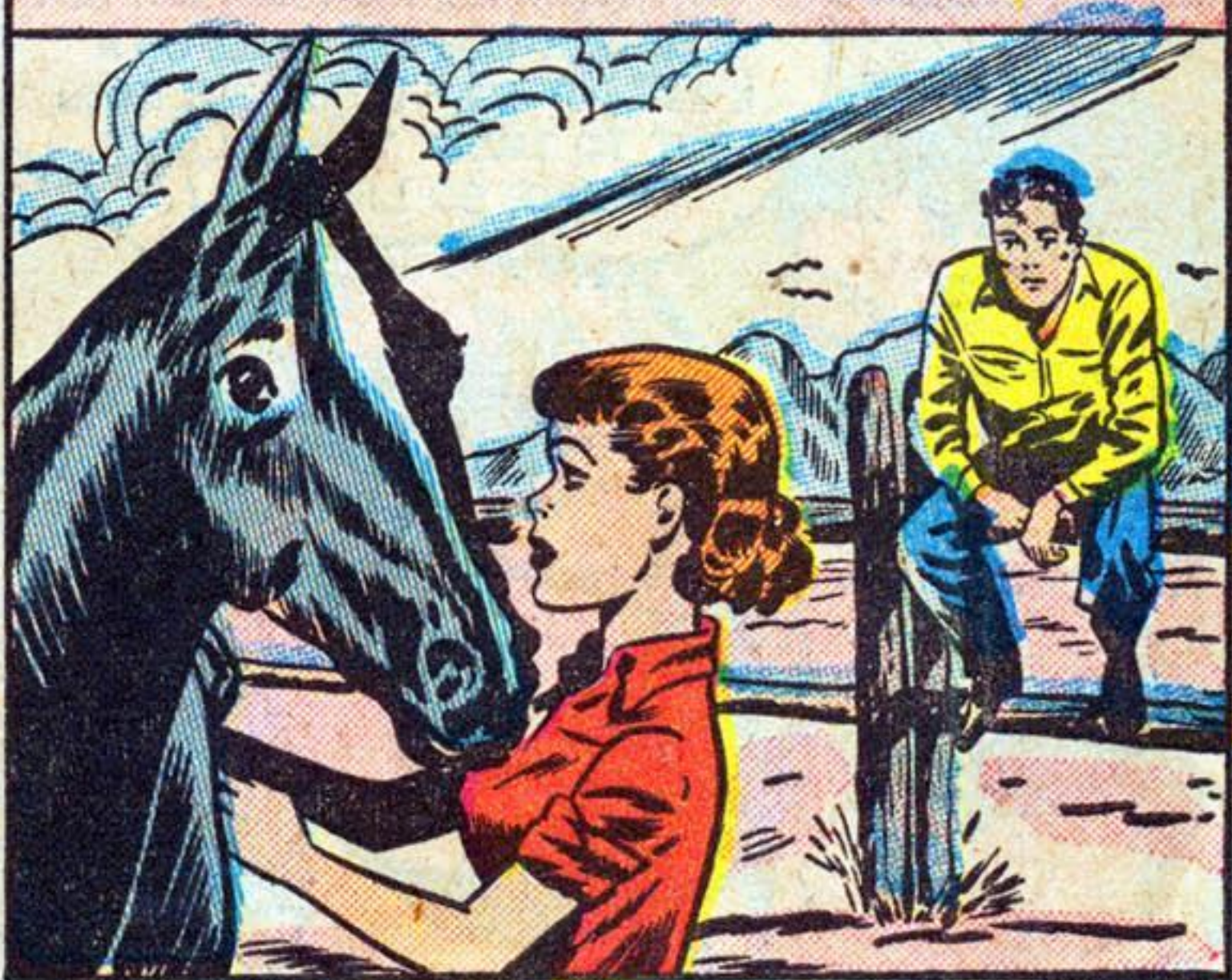
HE WAS AS TOUCHY AS A RABBIT! I FIGURED I HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO CALM HIM DOWN--AND IT WORKED!

WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO BE A COWBOY? THE ONLY NAG I EVER ROPE WAS ON A MERRY-GO-ROUND! OKAY, IT OUGHT TO BE GOOD FOR LAUGHS!

WE WON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM YOU, JIM-- MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME AND TAKE IT EASY!



I WENT ABOUT MY CHORES, BUT THIS STRANGE YOUNG MAN HAUNTED ME! WHAT WAS BEHIND THOSE BROODING EYES? WOULD THE WEST TAKE THIS MUSTANG OF THE SLUMS OR WAS IT HOPELESS?



AFTER HIS FIRST WORDS, HE DIDN'T SPEAK MUCH AT ALL! HE WENT ABOUT QUIETLY, DISTRUSTFUL OF EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING! BUT I COULD SENSE THOSE EYES... GLARING... BROODING! THEN ONE DAY...

HEY, BABE! COME HERE!

YES, JIM? WHAT IS IT?



YOU! WHAT'S A TWIST LIKE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE STICKS? YOU'D DO GOOD IN THE CHORUS LINE OF ANY NIGHT CLUB! HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME CUTTING OUT TOGETHER?

THIS IS MY LIFE, JIM--AND YOU'D LIKE IT, TOO, IF YOU'D GIVE IT A CHANCE!

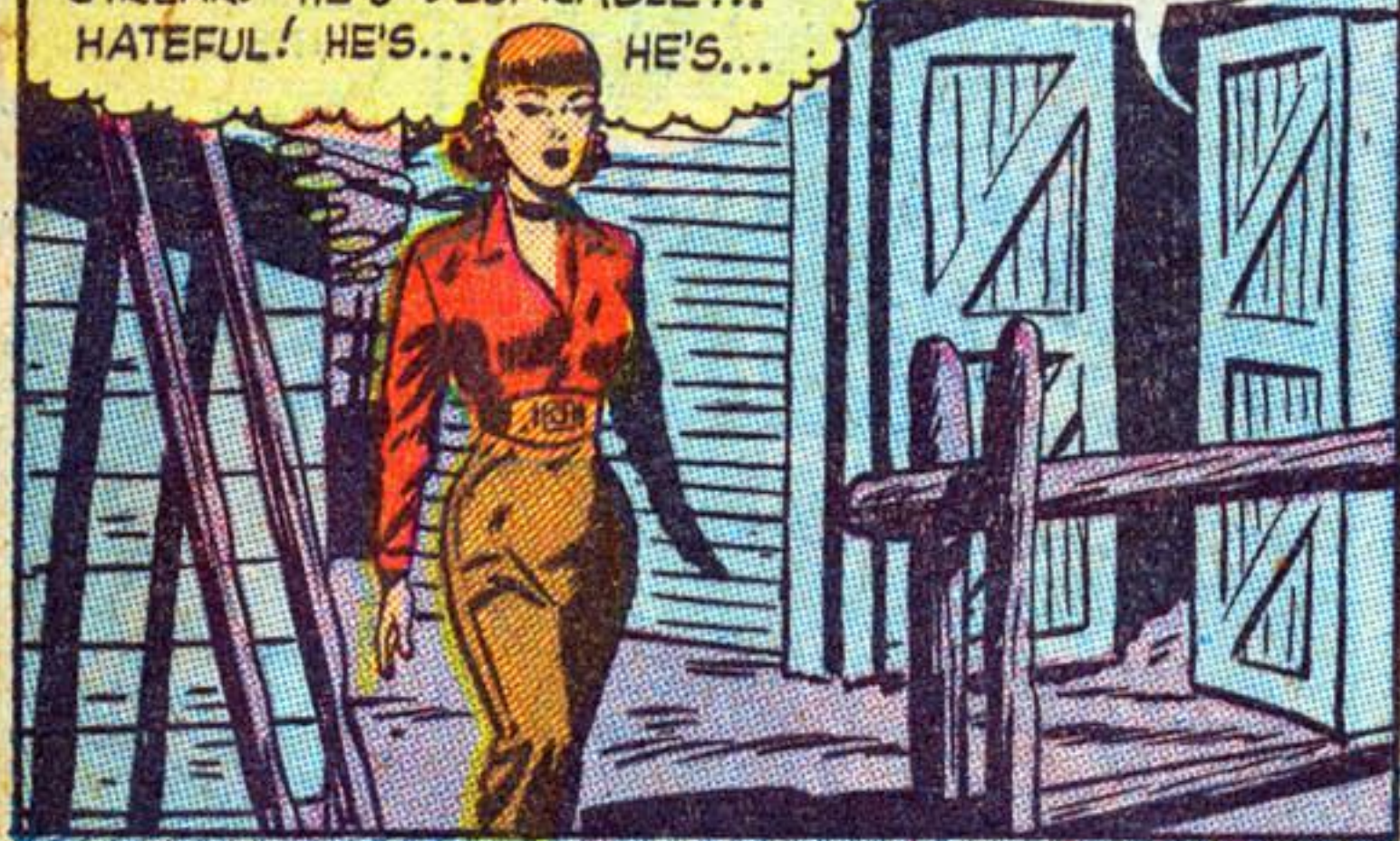




I TRIED TO THINK OF JIM AS JUST ANOTHER PERSON I KNEW THERE WAS NO PLACE IN MY LIFE FOR HIM! BUT HE INTRUDED IN EVERY THOUGHT!

WHY DO I WASTE TIME THINKING OF HIM! NO WONDER HE GOT INTO ALL THE TROUBLE HE DID-- WHAT WITH HIS SARCASM AND MEAN STREAK! HE'S DESPICABLE... HATEFUL! HE'S... HE'S...

ALL RIGHT, LITTLE ONE! TAKE IT EASY NOW... EASY...



THE VOICE I HEARD INSIDE THE BARN WAS A STRANGE ONE... TENDER, LOVING! IT WAS A VOICE I HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE! AND YET... IT WAS ODDLY FAMILIAR...

THERE!... I'LL GET THAT LEG FIXED UP IN NO TIME! NOW THEN... ISN'T THAT BETTER?

WHO CAN THAT BE?



IT WAS JIM! BUT A DIFFERENT JIM... A GOOD, KIND JIM! HE HAD APPLIED SPLINTS TO THE LEG OF A YOUNG CALF AND NOW HE WAS TALKING TO IT, CALMING IT, AND IT SNUGGLED UP IN HIS ARMS, TRUSTFUL OF THIS BOY WHOM NO ONE ELSE TRUSTED!

OKAY, YOU BEAUTIFUL LITTLE THING-- YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW! SCARED FOR A WHILE, WEREN'T YOU!

JIM!



AT THE SOUND OF MY VOICE THE TENDERNESS DROPPED OUT OF HIS VOICE AND HIS FACE! HE LOOKED ASHAMED AT HAVING BEEN OBSERVED LIKE THIS... OUT OF CHARACTER!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU GOTTA SNEAK UP ON ME? YOU'RE SPYING...

NO, JIM! I WASN'T! BUT, JIM... YOU... WERE TENDER... KIND TO THAT CALF!



WHO... ME? D'YA THINK I'M A SISSY? HERE! TAKE THE MUTT! IT WAS SQUEALING, SO I TRIED TO SHUT IT UP, THAT'S ALL!

JIM, YOU'RE NOT AS TOUGH AS YOU THINK YOU ARE! YOU ARE JUST ACTING! OTHERWISE HOW COULD YOU BE SO TENDER TO A HELPLESS CALF?



ME? YOU'RE OFF YOUR ROCKER! WHERE I COME FROM IT'S DOG EAT DOG! I HAD NO TIME TO BE A WEAKLING, AND I'M NOT GOING TO START NOW! GOOD NIGHT!

GOOD NIGHT!



YES, JIM TRIED TO ACT TOUGH ALL RIGHT! BUT I KNEW, SOMEHOW, THAT IT WAS ONLY A VENEER! JIM WAS BASICALLY A NICE PERSON, BUT IN HIS MIXED-UP MIND, HE FELT IT WOULD BE A SIGN OF WEAKNESS TO REVEAL IT!



HELLO THERE, JIM!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ENJOYED
READING! WHAT'S THE NAME
OF THE BOOK?

HUH? YOU... YOU
SNEAKED UP ON ME
AGAIN! I WASN'T
READING-- I WAS
LOOKING FOR PICTURES!
THIS BOOK'S GOT NO
PICTURES!

BUT HE HAD BEEN READING! AND THE BOOK WAS A COLLECTION OF POEMS OF THE WEST! YES, JIM WAS SHOWING A DIFFERENT SIDE OF HIS NATURE, THE SIDE I KNEW WAS THERE!



SO! HOW DO YOU
LIKE OUR COUNTRY,
SON?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS!
BUT YOU MUST BE SICK
OF HAVING ME AROUND!

JIM!
DON'T
SAY
THAT--
IT'S NOT TRUE!

IT *IS* TRUE! WHAT DO YOU WANT
ME HERE FOR? JUST TO SHOW THE
POOR CITY BOY HOW HIGH AND MIGHTY
YOU LIVE? YOU FEEL GOOD... LIKE A
COUPLE OF ARISTOCRATS BEING GOOD
TO SOMEONE WHO'S BENEATH THEM!

YOU'RE WRONG,
SON! WE'RE
NOT LIKE
THAT AT ALL!



YOU DON'T REALLY CARE FOR ME...
IT'S **YOURSELVES** YOU'RE THINKING
ABOUT! IT GIVES YOU A KICK BEING
KIND TO ME! **NAH!** YOU DON'T LIKE
ME AND I DON'T GIVE TWO CENTS
FOR **YOU!**

JIM! YOU DON'T
MEAN THAT!
STOP TRYING
TO ACT TOUGH
... ACT THE WAY
YOU DID TO THAT
CALF... KIND...
TENDER!



SEE? YOU THINK I'M A
FREAK! AND YOU WANT TO
CHANGE ME INTO A SOODY-GOODY!
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO
IT, SEE? I'M **ME** AND
NOBODY ELSE!

OH, JIM! YOU...
YOU **FOOL!**



YOU CARE FOR HIM, DON'T YOU, BABY?
I'VE SEEN IT COMING... I COULD TELL!
IF HE ONLY KNEW WHAT HE'S PASSING
UP IN YOU... IF HE COULD ONLY SEE!

BUT HE'S NOT
THE WAY HE
PRETENDS
TO BE, DAD!
HE'S NOT A
YEGG! WHY DOES
HE ACT THAT WAY?
WHY? **WHY?**





I WAS IN HIS ARMS AGAIN! WE WERE DRAWN TOGETHER AS IF IT WERE DESTINED TO BE THAT WAY! IT WAS AS IT SHOULD BE...AND I WAS HAPPY!

GWEN... JIM! OH...JIM!



BUT THE SPELL WAS BROKEN IN A MOMENT! HE PUSHED ME AWAY SAVAGELY!

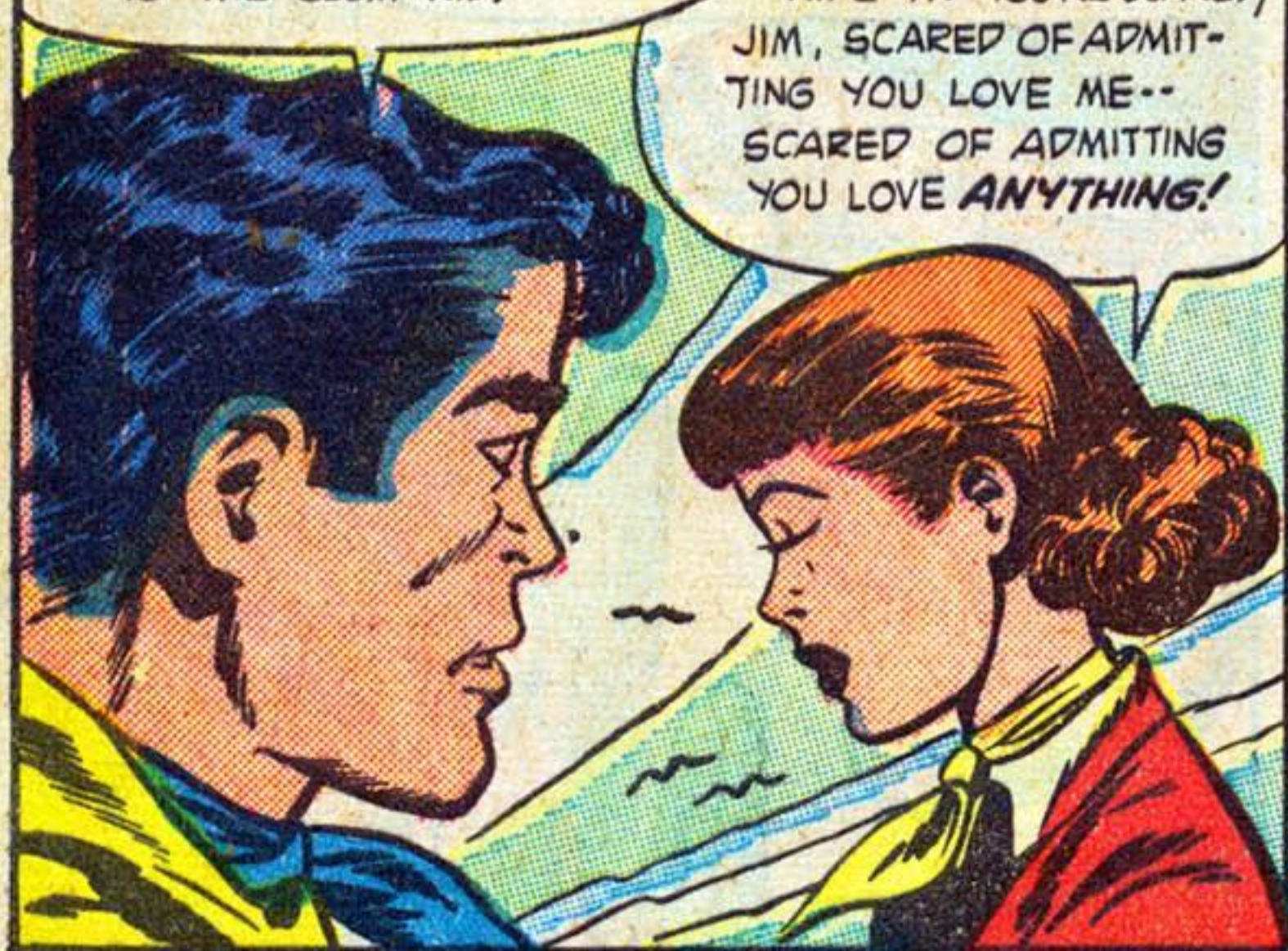
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME ANYWAY? AM I GOING SOFT? THIS WESTERN AIR MUST BE GETTING ME BALMY!

JIM, DON'T... DON'T BECOME THAT OTHER SELF AGAIN! DIDN'T THAT KISS MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?



NEVER MIND *THAT*! IT MEANT NOTHING TO *YOU*, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS! YOU'RE STILL THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER BEING KIND TO THE SLUM KID!

IT'S NO USE, IS IT? ONCE IN A WHILE THE *REAL* YOU COMES OUT, BUT YOU HIDE IT! YOU'RE SCARED, JIM, SCARED OF ADMITTING YOU LOVE ME-- SCARED OF ADMITTING YOU LOVE *ANYTHING*!



OH, *SHUT UP*! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS WILD WEST STUFF! I'M GOING BACK TO THE CITY TOMORROW! AT LEAST, IF ANYBODY TRIES TO LORD IT OVER ME THERE, I CAN TAKE A SMACK AT THEM!

GO BACK!

GO ON! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! YOU...YOU DON'T DESERVE BEING LOVED! YOU ONLY DESERVE WHAT YOU GIVE... HATE!



TO THE NEXT MORNING RED GOT OUT THE HORSE AND BUGGY TO TAKE JIM TO THE STATION AND OUT OF MY LIFE...FOREVER! I HAD RESIGNED MYSELF TO THIS... I KNEW THAT I WOULD HAVE TO FORGET HIM...

GOOD-BYE! YOU TRIED HARD, BUT I JUST DON'T CARE FOR PEOPLE LOOKING DOWN ON ME!

I'M SORRY YOU TAKE THAT ATTITUDE, SON! BUT IT SEEMS YOUR TROUBLE IS TOO DEEP FOR US TO PROBE! GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK!

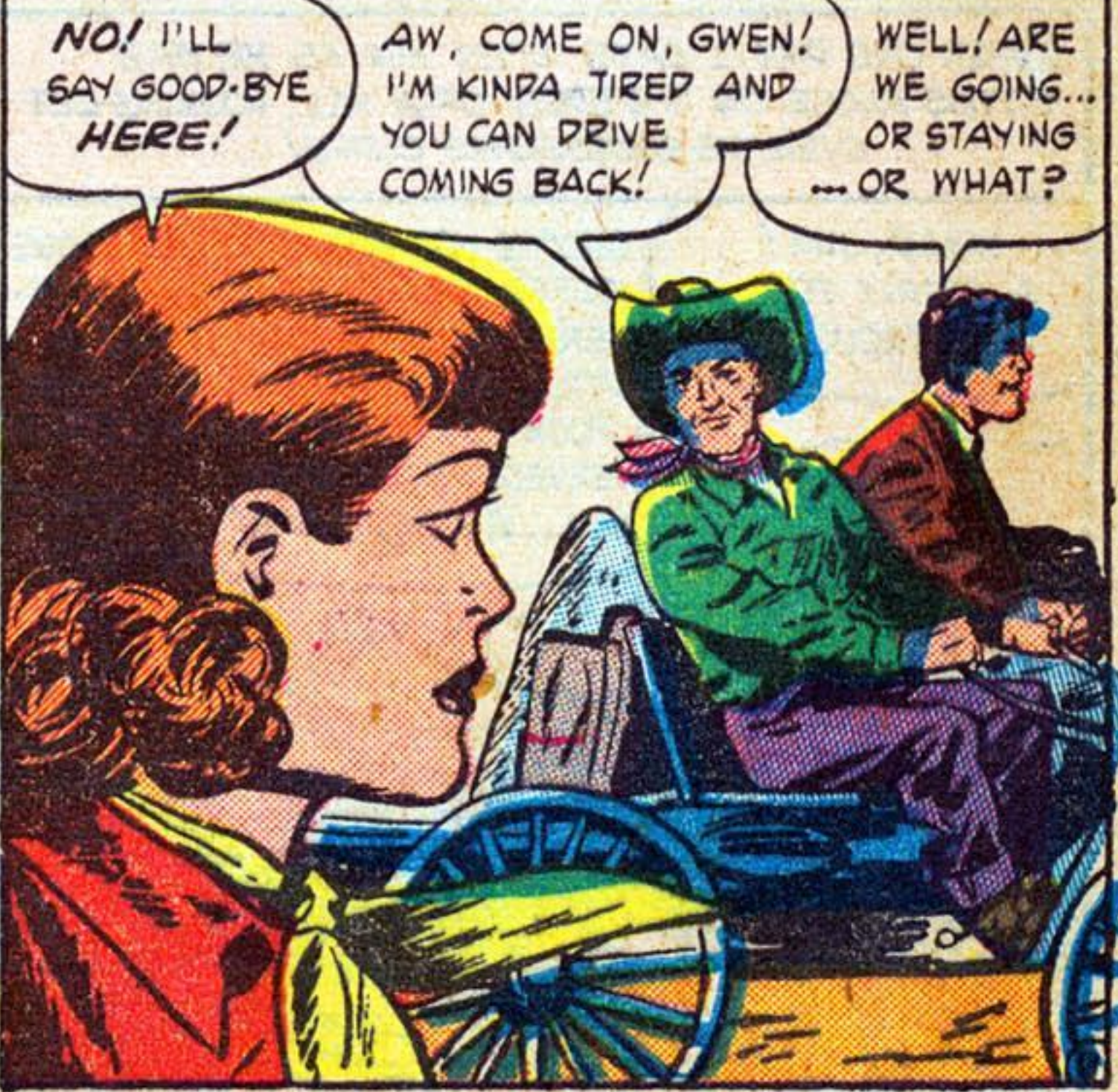
COMIN' GWEN?



*NO! I'LL SAY GOOD-BYE **HERE**!*

AW, COME ON, GWEN! I'M KINDA TIRED AND YOU CAN DRIVE COMING BACK!

WELL! ARE WE GOING... OR STAYING... OR WHAT?



SO WE DROVE TO TOWN AND NONE OF US SPOKE A WORD-- THE BITTERNESS IN JIM'S SOUL SEEMED TO AFFECT US ALL! THEN WE LEFT JIM AT THE STATION AND STARTED TO DRIVE BACK! AND RED ACTED STRANGELY...



AH! ALONE AT LAST!
HOW ABOUT
A KISS,
GWEN?

RED! HAVE YOU
GONE CRAZY?
STOP THAT!

BUT HE DIDN'T STOP! INSTEAD HE HELD ME TIGHTLY! SUDDENLY HE WAS WRENCHED AWAY AND WENT FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!



WHAT D'YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING TO MY
GIRL?

HEY! OH, JIM! **YOUR GIRL!** YOU
CALLED ME "YOUR GIRL!"

THE VENEER HAD DROPPED OFF... COMPLETELY AND FOREVER! INSTEAD HE WAS HIMSELF, JUST A BOY IN LOVE, AND THE WORDS OF LOVE THAT I HAD LONGED TO HEAR CAME GUSHING OUT LIKE A TORRENT!

YES, YOU'RE MY GIRL! I LOVE YOU, GWEN!
I'M NOT AFRAID TO TELL YOU NOW! **I LOVE YOU!**
THE SIGHT OF RED KISSING YOU... KNOWING I'D NEVER
SEE YOU AGAIN-- THAT MADE ME
REALIZE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! **OH, JIM! MY JIM!**
I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!



NO MORE FIGHTING PEOPLE FOR
ME! FROM NOW ON, I'M A CHANGED
GUY! I LOVE EVERYBODY...
AND ESPECIALLY **YOU!**

BUT... JIM!
LOOK AT
WHAT YOU
DID TO **RED!**

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, KIDS! IF IT TOOK
THIS TO MAKE THAT BIG GOOF COME
TO HIS SENSES, IT WAS WORTH IT! I
FIGURED THAT IF YOU WERE A MAN,
YOU'D SHOW IT WHEN I KISSED GWEN!
FORGIVE ME, GWEN?

FORGIVE YOU?
I LOVE YOU,
RED! LOOK
AT WHAT YOU
DID FOR US!



**SO EAST IS EAST AND
WEST IS WEST AND
NEVER THE TWAIN
SHALL MEET, EH?**



WE'VE FOUND EACH OTHER, JIM AND I! NOW OUR LIFE TOGETHER WILL BE COMPLETE! OLD JIM TOBIN'S LEGACY TO ME WAS... HAPPINESS! HIS SON IS NOW MY HUSBAND... NO LONGER BITTER... NO LONGER THE BAD BOY IT TOOK SO LONG TO BREAK DOWN!

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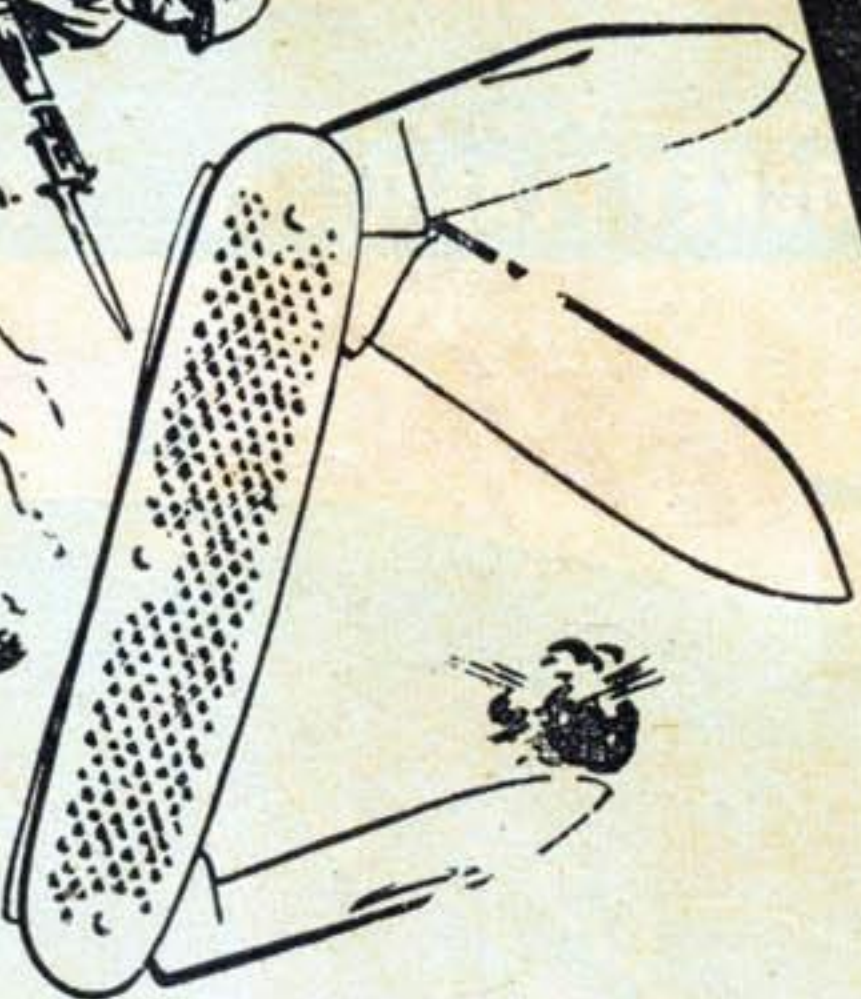
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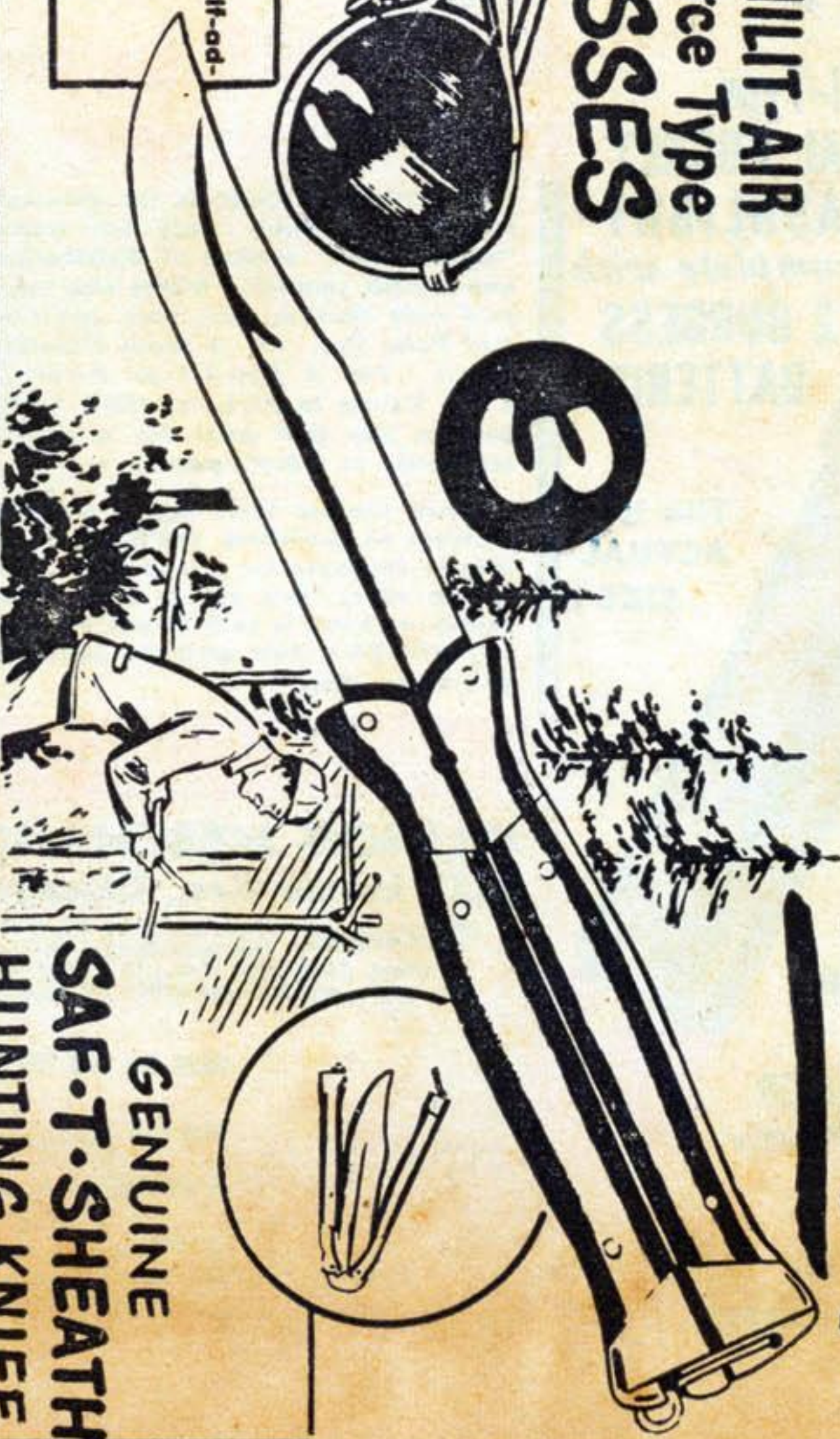


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